

1 Peter 3:8-12

The Power of Practical Godliness: Believers Who Submit to the Will of God by Living a Life of Practical Godliness Will Experience Physical and Spiritual Blessings on Earth.

Imperatives v8-9a

A summation of this section (2:13-3:18) dealing with submission in the Christian life

- 1: all of you be harmonious
- 2: all of you be sympathetic
- 3: all of you be brotherly/sisterly
- 4: all of you be kindhearted
- 5: all of you be humble in spirit
- 6: all of you refrain from responding in kind to slights/irritations

Incentives v9b-12

Incentive 1a (v9b)

Obedience to the Six Commands Will Enhance the Quality of Our Life on Earth

Practical Restatements of the Six Commands (v10-11)

- 1: Refrain from speaking evil/deceit
 - 1a: many things are better not said (love smothers a multitude of sins)
 - 1b: rather than gossip or flattery, we are to speak truth in love to t/relevant person(s)
- 2: Turn away from (doing) evil and instead do good
- 3: Seek peace (with other believers whenever possible) and pursue it (as a lifestyle)

Incentive 1b (v12)

Obedience in These Relational Areas with Other Christians Will Enhance the Quality of Our Spiritual Fellowship with God and Thus Make Our Prayers More Effective (Precisely Because They and We Will be Lined up with God's Will/His Glory).

Take This To Heart

- Believers Are Commanded to Embrace a Lifestyle of Practical Godliness as the Fruit (That is as an Effect) of Our Salvation
- 1: Because It is God's Will for Us and
 - 2: Because It Will Lead to God's Blessing on Upon Us.