

05 Spending Sacred Holy Time with the Lord Jesus Christ

Turn with me to 2nd Peter chapter 1 and let's look at the first 11 verses in the Scripture.

2 Peter 1:

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (And this verse right here is the thing I want to chat with you little bit about today.)

*4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: (This part right here) that by these (meaning these exceeding great and precious promises) ye might be partakers of the **divine nature**, (now those 2 words right there are the ones that we want to take a look at for just a minute) having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Now something about this divine nature allows us to escape the corruption that in this world. Look at verse 5.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Now Joseph Smith said that Peter penned the most sublime language of all of the ancient apostles. I want to just concentrate in verse 4 on these words: *the divine nature* and spend little time with you today to share with you some things I've learned and experiences that had. If you go online you will see that the divine nature, especially in the church website LDS.org, has lots of references that all link back to talks given by brother and sister leadership in the church over the years. This reference in 2nd Peter chapter 1 is the only place in all of our Scripture canon where the turn of the divine nature is mentioned. Only in this one place. Let's talk about that this *divine nature* is upon which so many beautiful things rest. The *divine nature* is all of the attributes and characters of divine male and divine female in their

perfected fullness. This is, I believe, a good definition of what this is. The word *nature* describes your very core, the very center of you, who you really are. If someone comes up to me and refers to an acquaintance that I know well and starts to say something about this person that doesn't ring true I will simply say, "whoa, wait just a minute. We just met. Are we talking about the same person here, because the person I know; what you're saying about them is not in their nature to do such a thing. I know them well. I have a lot of experience with them and what you're saying does not match up with the person I know and their nature." And so we describe the very internal center core of our very being, the deepest level of our values, and the things that we hold sacred. The nature, that is mentioned in Scripture is called *the natural man*. So scripturally were talking about two different natures of God's children and of our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. There is plenty written upon *the fallen nature of man*. And today's discussion is not meant to cover that topic. Our Mother and Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ possess this divine nature in its perfected fullness. They want their children to have possession of this divine nature while in this life. Does it have to happen in this life? No. Can it happen after death? I'm sure that he can, but to have that is stowed and infused in you in this life is a great blessing and provides a tremendous advantage while you're here to accomplish with the Lord what you want to do and in the worlds to come.

Because it's of the unique position of the Lord Jesus Christ in relationship to this system that we live in and as mediator, Savior, Redeemer, and advocate with the father. Because of his atoning sacrifice and having drunk and from the bitter cup and finished his preparations under the children of men he has been given the opportunity to infuse within God's sons and daughters there divine nature. The nature of our heavenly parents however cannot come to us only and except through the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a part of his great atonement. There is no other way for us to obtain this marvelous gift of the divine nature of our heavenly parents than by and through and in him. How is this to be done? How can we have this divine nature bestowed upon us? There's much said about the desirability of having it and why we should have it and what a benefit and a blessing and advantage would be for us to have that, but there's little said about how to do that. The how pretty much remains a mystery, but is one of the most important things, if not the most important thing, that we can learn why we are here in this world. I believe that the how to obtain the divine nature of our holy parents to the Lord Jesus Christ is the very central core, sum and substance, of his marvelous atoning mission. Now I do not profess to understand all there is about this. My purpose is to simply share with you some things that I've learned and experienced in the last 6 to 8 months. These things have been a great blessing to me and I desire to share those with you. As in all things, take what you hear here and measure it against the Scripture canon, against the words of our prophets and apostles, and against the promptings and impressions of the Holy Spirit, and the teachings of the Holy Ghost. In order to obtain the divine nature of our heavenly parents, through the Lord Jesus Christ, we must spend sacred holy time with him. I would propose that you spend one hour each day in sacred holy time with the Lord Jesus Christ in order to obtain this marvelous gift. I believe that your commitment to do this must be steadfast and diligent. I cannot think of a greater gift to be obtained contained in this life than to have my fallen nature exchanged through the atonement of Jesus Christ and receive in its place the divine nature of the Lord and my heavenly parents. When I stop to think about who they are and the kind of life that they live and the characteristics and attributes that they possess I find that this would be highly desirable to obtain in this

life. My feeling is and testimony to you is based on my experience that this can be done and is something to seek for. Again a silver bullet approach, a casual, or apathetic approach to this, a hit and miss approach will not suffice. This is going to be a process on both sides, Lord Jesus Christ working with you, and you working with him, that is going to require your diligent effort to be available every day for at least one hour. Now I know that there are many many things in this life that need to be done that are important. I know that many of you that are listening to this are students; some of you are just beginning your married life; some of you are the parents of young children; some of you are working hard to establish a career and take care of your wants and needs in this world. I understand that my ability at age 75 to find this time is more readily available than you who are younger and are just starting out your lives. However, with that said I can promise you if this concept rings true to you and you only discern that as you listen to these words. If it rings true to you and you decide to pursue this course and is set aside that time each day to make yourself available to the Lord Jesus Christ, I can promise you that he will help you arrange your affairs and your priorities even to the point of extending time so that you can find the time to be with him. It is that important to do. Now I know that that sounds very easy, but consider this, that everything in this Telestial world is designed to keep you from doing this very thing. The distractions of this world are so enormous that we find ourselves caught up into it for years and decades of our life until we receive some kind of an awakening from the Lord that says, "there's something better." I don't know about you, my friends, but I spent a good portion of my life seeking after things that really have no value in the world to come. I have learned that there are certain priorities and certain things that we should seek for that the Lord refers to great things, the greater portion of the word, and we should be careful not to be caught up in good or even better, or even best if it shortens us from obtaining the greater things. Now there's one other thing that our heavenly parents in the Lord would like us to do during that hour. You may be asking yourself, "what right do for one hour?" The other thing that they would like us to do is, in that time, spend some time expressing gratitude, praise, and adoration for your heavenly parents and for the Lord Jesus Christ. So there's two things that we can do that will help us in the process of having our fallen nature exchanged for the holy divine nature of our heavenly parents and their Jesus Christ. Number one, Spend a minimum of one hour each day in sacred holy time with the Lord; and number 2, within that timeframe express your gratitude, your love, your adoration, and give praise to them for all that they have given to you and for all that you are. Now, again that sounds simple, but think about it. In a world where time is easily distracted and in a world that is more centered on self than on others expressing gratitude in an era of entitlement is no easy thing. So even though these two things sounds simple, I'm pretty sure you'll find, that as I have, they are no small challenge but the reward, if this is true, is well worth every effort, every sacrifice that you can get to it. I was explaining these feelings and thoughts to a friend of mine who's in his early 80s. And he said to me Mike, "I don't believe that I've ever prayed for more than 20 minutes in my whole life and you're now saying that I need to pray for one hour every day." And I said to him, "I said nothing about praying for that hour. I said spend time with him for that hour. Set aside that hour and make yourself available. Let the spirit guide you in that time as to what you should do, what you should say, if anything, and that was no expectations, no agenda, no thought at all of what's in it for you. Your personal feeling is to simply make a commitment, make yourself available, and spend that time with the Lord Jesus Christ. I can promise you that within that sacred period of time, you will start to

feel, and to its understand things that you have never felt nor understood before. It will be a gradual process that will continue your spiritual awakening.

You see, brothers and sisters, we have within us a spirit being the spirit being. This spirit being is very very old age – ancient. We have no idea how old this spirit person, that's in us, this person that is the son or daughter of heavenly parents begotten, conceived, organized, or formed by them at the time they come into sentient existence where they have a knowledge of who they are and that they are self-aware – a son and a daughter of God, male and female. That spirit has within it all the knowledge, all the information necessary to successfully navigate your course in this world and to obtain all of your foreordained destiny and a return back from whence it came clothed with glory and eternal life. All of that exists in you. Your spirit is Godkind, your physical body is mankind; and therein is the battle. The physical body with its weakness within the generational patterns even in the DNA and down into the genetic cellular structure has inherited and as a result of being in this world had infused within it weakness and all of the failings and shortcomings that we see ourselves that make up what the Scriptures call the natural man. That spirit, however, when it came into this world was covered with the veil and was cause to forget, while you're here in this world, who you really are, forget all that you've ever learned, forget all that you experienced throughout eternity, for you are an eternal spiritual being and have now entered into a place, a schoolhouse, where veil has been placed over your spirit and is cause you to forget everything that you ever knew, everything you've ever experienced, and even cause you to forget the true identity, the name you were given by your heavenly parents as they brought you into existence as their spirit child. What we want to do with the help of the Lord Jesus Christ, while in this world, is to begin the process of lifting that veil, to have restored to us, bit by bit, here a little there a little, line upon line, who you really are. In the process of having that restoration of spiritual knowledge and identity as that takes place, through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, a natural consequence of lifting that veil, in other words learning and experiencing things to heavenly realm of restoration, of your forgotten past, that takes place there are changes automatically made in your physical being and the natural man is sloughed off automatically as Godkind, spiritual man, has that knowledge of who you really are re-restored to you.

Here is what I would like to propose to you that as we look at our weaknesses in our failings, here in the flesh, and we see the shortcomings, and the sins and the transgressions that we commit we immediately feel that we need to begin working harder to overcome these physical shortcomings and failings. If what I'm saying here is true and what I'm experiencing seems to indicate that it is. If you will work at encountering the spiritual realm and having restored to you who you really are and having that veil lifted off of your spirit being, as that comes up, the failings and shortcomings of the natural man are automatically slipped away. What we would like to do is come to a point, through the atonement of Jesus Christ, have that natural man shed, take upon the divine nature of God and have your physical being regained from the fall combined with your awaken spiritual being through the atonement of Jesus Christ and those two become one – One in Jesus Christ.

This is what, I believe, the Book of Mormon is talking about when it says, "*becoming alive in Christ.*" As I experimented with these concepts and I decided that I would set aside one hour every day to be with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in that time, not only will I make myself available for that time, but

in that time I would spend as directed by the spirit time in praise, love, gratitude, it's and admiration for our Heavenly Parents and the Lord Jesus Christ. I have found out that the best time to do this is early in the morning. In the New Testament times they took the night from 6 PM to 6 AM and divided into 4 watches. They had watchmen on towers and every 3 hours they would change the watch. So the first watch was from 6 PM to 9 PM; the 2nd watch was from 9 PM to midnight; the 3rd watch was from midnight to 3 AM; and the 4th watch was from 3 AM to 6 AM. My friends, I have found out to my personal experience that our God tends to be 4th watch God when it comes to his children and their seeking, asking, and knocking.

Almost all the experiences I've had in the last year have taken place between 3 AM and 6 AM in the morning. But consistently between 3 and 6 is when my experience has been to find our father and the Lord Jesus Christ and other heavenly beings that are sent here to help us. So I get back to you to consider. I know that may require you to make some changes. I know it was good for me because all my life I've been a night owl. I have not been a morning person; Margie is and she is up bright and early and she retires early and arises early as the Lord says in Scripture. Let's turn to the Doctrine and Covenants section 88, and let's go over and look at verse 124. You've all read this. Perhaps what we're talking about will give this new insight and new feeling to you, verse 124 section 88.

D & C 88:

124 Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another;(this part right here) ***cease to sleep longer than is needful;***(and then he gives us an idea of what that means) ***retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be invigorated.***

I've read in many places where apostles and prophets and those who are leaders who had exceptional spiritual experiences and receive revelation from the Lord, it happens to them early in the morning. And I think there's a reason for that. Your mind is clearer, the distractions of the day have not begun to wind up, so this is when Margie and I have committed to spend our sacred time with the Lord Jesus Christ. What does that look like? Let me share with you what I do, and again this is just to provide maybe a revelatory trigger. I'm not saying this is the way for each of you, but at least it might give you a feeling of and desire to begin so that you can start the process if the Lord inspires you to do so. I will wake up early or will be awaked. It's interesting to me that what you start this process and commit, that more often than not, I am awakened almost so that exact hour, sometimes at 3:00 – 3:30 sometimes at 4:00. I learned to call it a summons because I don't set my alarm. The Lord knows that I'm making the effort, that I've committed and he awakens me. We have had a marvelous experience. I don't think Marty would mind if I share this with you, she went to bed one night and asked the Lord to awaken her when it was time to go to school. That's what she called it. So she went to bed and right at about 3 o'clock in the morning, lo and behold, the rooster crowed. And it was loud. And I did not hear that because when I take my hearing aids out for the night I really need to have an earthquake that wakes me up, but Marty's a light sleeper and so when this rooster crowed she sat straight up in bed it was 3 o'clock almost of the nose and the thinking was, *where did that rooster come from?* Well of course there was no rooster in our bedroom, and there was no rooster outside. And finally the Lord... and Marty thought about and she said, *very funny*. This is one of those instances where we learned that the holy ones in the heavenly realm have a delightful sense of humor.

And So I arise and I go down into my office. Now I have dedicated my office as a place for revelation, for inspiration, and for sacred and holy things. We also dedicated the room upstairs where Margie spends her time together. When we both arise, we will spend some time and study together in discussion and then we depart from each other. She stays in the upstairs room which is been dedicated for holy purposes, and I go downstairs into my office which is been dedicated for the same purposes. After making my preparations to approach the Lord, I don't just kneel down, I used to; but I now give it some thought before I go to my knees and I kneel down and I spend the first part of this morning devotional with my Heavenly Father, my holy parents. And I talked to my father and I have at this point - I very seldom ask, seek, or knock for anything from him. I used to, but now it's just a prayer that just expresses gratitude, and love, and Thanksgiving, adoration, and praise. And take a certain amount of time and then there's a feeling that comes over me that I call, the feeling of sufficiency. At That point I think my Holy Father and tell him that I committed to spend time with his Beloved Son, thanking Father for the time I spent with you this morning. I love you so much, and now if you'll excuse me I would like to spend time with the Lord Jesus Christ.

At that point I began my one hour of sacred time with the Lord. It's in this time when I ask, seek, and knock. And it's also at this time that I converse with the Lord through the veil. This is an actual conversation where I don't talk at him, or don't talk to him, I converse with him, that requires two way conversation. The Biggest challenge about this port's ion of my hour with him is to be quiet and allow him to converse with me. They're very very kind and will not interrupt you. So you want to receive their part of the conversation you have to come to a point where you start talking and are still. I don't know about you but this was a big challenge for me; because I'm uncomfortable and I've not been in the habit of talking in my prayers in a conversation mode. I've just been in the habit of addressing heavenly father, thanking him for the things that I have, asking him for the things I need, and closing my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, arising from my knees and going about my business. No conversation at all. And I've done this for the largest, larger portion of my life it's only been recently that I have been delighted to converse with him. And oh, my brothers and sisters, what a delightful wonderful experience this has been to just talk to him and then pause and let him respond. Asking him a question, pause and let him answer your question; just enjoying the conversation. There are words that come into your mind and they are not words that you hear with your audible ear. They are the words of Nephi describes in the first chapter of Nephi first book of Nephi chapter – go to first Nephi chapter 17 and let's go to verse 45. **(30:31)** Here Nephi is in one of those discussions with his brothers, Lamien and Lemuel. Who were giving him a hard time, and he says this to them in verse 45;

1 Nephi 17:

45 Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, (this part right here, my friends) but ye were **past feeling, that ye could not feel his words; wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder.**

Here Nephi speaking about conversing with the Lord through the vein. You don't see him. You don't hear him with your audible ears. You don't see him with your physical eyes. He speaks to you in a still

small voice and you feel his words, not hear his words. That is an excellent discussion of what takes place when you converse with the Lord Jesus Christ. They really want to have this conversation with us, but we have been so steep and so bound in the traditions of our fathers, in the false concepts and false precepts of men, the philosophies of men mingled with Scripture that we never come to this place where conversing, the word converse ties right into conversation and all conversations are two ways.

That I mentioned before, I have a relative of mine that we speak to almost daily and as we get to the end of this quote, conversation unquote, he will and that by saying, *talk at you later, talk at you later* and that's pretty much describes the so-called conversation that we have. Is that he talks throughout the whole time. You have to forcibly interject even get a word in edge wise; and then he's listening only what he says and not anything you say and is the conversation in that manner. I wonder if that isn't the way the Lord views the way we speak with him. At any rate, I would invite you to try this conversing with the Lord. The hardest part for me was to just be quiet. And there was one time where I took a breath and the Lord waited to say something and as I took a breath he said to me, *Mike the quiet*. And I've really been practicing on that, and I'm telling you I look forward every morning to this part of my experience of my one hour time with the Lord Jesus Christ. It's marvelous. They are so delightful. They have a great sense of humor. It's not all straight-laced and long-faced with them. They love to have fun.

Now after a few minutes of conversing with him I get the feeling of sufficiency. You just get a feeling that it's time now to go into something else and the something else is to enter into a place of stillness. I believe that the work that he will perform in the exchange of our fallen nature for his and our holy parents divine nature must take place in this environment of silence, stillness, and holy quiet. Now this is challenging because this is going to require you to do some work at this point. You're going to need to seek to and here's the words I want to use: find, enter in, and abide in sacred, silence, and stillness. Now the challenge is, if you're like me, is that your mind and your thoughts are racing everywhere. Don't be discouraged as you try to enter into this place of quiet. The Lord talks about this when he says, *be still and know that I am God*. Whether you want to call the process to get there meditation or whatever you want to call, it is work, and it takes effort in this world to find this place, enter into it, and abide there. Practice, don't be discouraged. When you start to do this you will find that your thoughts are all over the place. You become very aware through this process of your thoughts and distractive nature of your thoughts and the elements of this world. Stay with it. Stay with it, practice makes perfect.

I liken it to backing up to an easy chair. Somebody asked me other day what it was like and I said I liken it to backing up to a big easy chair. I backup, standing up, until the back of my legs touch the edge of the chair, and then I start to bend down. At somewhere in that bending process, the force of gravity takes me the rest of the way and I sink into the chair and settled in. It's a pretty good description because up until when gravity takes over it's your effort to get to that point with the gravitational pull settles you in the chair. Go with me to Doctrine and Covenants section 88. Let's look at verse 63. Verse 63 says this:

D & C 88:

63 Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Lots of lessons in verse 63, but I just want to point out the first part, *Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you*. Your effort in entering into this place of stillness, solitude, and sacred quiet could be likened unto that part of the Scripture where *you draw near unto him*. Notice that it's your effort first, and then he, liked the law of gravity settling you there in that large chair, once you reach a certain point in your effort to draw nearer to him he will take you the rest of the way and drawn near unto you and you will settle into this beautiful, sacred, peaceful place. It's interesting that once you're settled in the distractions that have bothered you up to that point are no longer a distraction. Once you're in there it easy to stay there. And I found it that you determine how long you want to stay there.

Let me share with you from my own experience that began to happen as I sought this experience and tried the Lord with this experiment. I want to share with you a journal entry comes from April 2018, *"This morning I had a wonderful experience as I spent time with the Lord. I was sitting on my couch visualizing him sitting near me and we were just having a casual conversation. I asked him about his day and how he felt when so many were going about their lives without thinking about him. I found that my mind was continually being drawn away from our time together by the cares of the world, and I was constantly focusing on bringing my thoughts back to him. He was pleased with my efforts to concentrate and focus and rewarded me three different times with what I can only describe as it is infusion of light and truth and love."* These three words, I believe, sum up all of the characteristics and attributes of our Mother and Father, and Lord Jesus Christ and their perfect fullness. You can take all of these characteristics in all of these attributes in my opinion and put them into these three words light, love, and truth. Back to the journal entry, *"This feeling was one of lightness beginning in the center of my chest in the solar plexus region and radiating outward in waves, very pleasant. It was such that I desired experiences and again and again. I've experienced this before and startled me maybe wondered if I was having some heart issues and that I would lose consciousness. This time I just let it engulf me and enjoyed the sensation. The Lord is that that he would do this, and that it would be joyous. I can't wait to do this again this evening just before I retire to bed. Early in the morning to start the day and just before bed at night, what a wonderful plan to spend the sacred times with our Lord and Savior."*

May I share with you another journal entry to demonstrate this experience. This was May 27 at 4 AM, *"Just about daily now when I spend time with the Lord Jesus I'm infused with his light, truth, and love. I spoke this morning with Margie as we laid in bed and she described the same thing happening to her. This is a feeling of lightness and euphoria, begins in the chest hard area, and slowly expands outward, is subtle yet very noticeable, it almost feels as if you're being drawn upward and out of your body, it radiates outward in a swelling motion and is very desirable. I was pleased to hear her describe it this way as an added a witness to me as to what I was feeling. Since is happening in like manner to both of us I wonder if it's felt by all in this way. This morning in my time with the Lord I experienced it four times within one hour together. It comes when I am still and almost in a place between wakefulness and sleep. I am awake but very relaxed and quiet. I can thank the Lord while bathing in this marvelous infusion and can even ask for it to linger and have some success in doing this. I know that my fallen nature is being removed and replaced by the holy divine nature of my parents in the Lord Jesus Christ. This will enable me to make better decisions, do things with a deeper godly understanding, and bestow power to make and keep covenants. I praise there holy names."*

Do I experience these beautiful things every morning? The answer is, no. This morning for example I sought to find, and enter in, and abiding in, and I could not find it. I believe one of the reasons was that I rose from bed too late and the cares and distractions of the world have begun to take their toll. One can encounter the heavenly realm with all its related dreams, visions, manifestations, privileges, and blessings without entering into this place, but in order for the power of the fullness of the Lord's atonement at work in our lives, I believe, we must find, enter into, and abide in his sacred place. We cannot come into this sacred place and receive what we want if we have any expectations, plans, nor requests. You entered in with a blank page, a clean slate, and you must be completely open. You're whole desire is to simply be with the Lord. You simply make yourself available and come to him with no agenda whatsoever. The word that best describes this place and the state of being waiting to be and is stillness.

Well, my dear friends and fellow sojourners here upon the earth, I pray that I've shared with you today my own experiences and what I have and am learning will be a blessing to you. Again, I don't know that this is your path. I don't know that this has to happen to everyone. I simply share these things out of love for you and a desire that perhaps something you've heard here today will trigger a revelatory outpouring from our Holy Father and his Beloved Son. Something will move you to a higher place of being, a holier place of existence. Something that will bring us closer to our Holy Father and his Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. This is my sole desire. I love them so much. I testify to you about their living reality. They **are** our father and our beloved Savior. I am so privileged to be able to bear this testimony of them. I pray that these words will bless you and help you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.