**Sermon Title: Growth Through Confirmation of the New Life**

**Sermon Text: 2 Peter 1:3-4**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the confirmation of a New Life in Christ.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 aspects that confirm the believer’s New Life in Christ.**

**Introduction:** “Spiritual Disciplines are means, not ends. The end – that is, the purpose of practicing the Disciplines – is godliness. I define godliness as both closeness to Christ and conformity to Christ, a conformity that’s both inward and outward, a growing conformity to both the heart of Christ and the life of Christ.”

[***Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald S. Whitney, p.9**]

**Definition of Divine:** 1. Of or pertaining to God 2. Appropriated to God, or celebrating His praise; religious; holy 3. Pertaining to or proceeding from a deity [**Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, Merriam Publishers, p.243**]

1. of, relating to, or proceeding directly from God or a god 2. Being a deity

[**merriam-webster.com/dictionary/divine**]

**I. The Divine power enables the New Life. v.3a**

**II. The Divine protocol enriches the New Life. v.3b**

**III. The Divine promises encourages the New Life. v.4a**

**IV. The Divine presence enlightens the New Life. v.4b**

**I. The Divine power enables the New Life. v.3a**

God’s power has given the believer everything we need for living the Christlike life.

 (**Ephesians 1:19-21; Colossians 1:15-18; Ephesians 2:1-3**)

 **John 17:2-3** "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. **3** "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

 **John 10:10** "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

 This references the point between salvation, to final glorification. The space of sanctification.

 **2 Peter 3:11** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

 **1 John 2:3-6** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

 **4** He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. **6** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

**II. The Divine protocol enriches the New Life. v.3b**

 A. The protocol of growing in knowledge of Christ. V.3c

 Through the One (Jesus Christ) who called us (election) to His own glory and goodness.

 (Epignosis)

 **Philippians 3:10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

 **2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

 1. This is initiated by the **general** call of election. (Luke banquet invitation; **Luke 14:15-24**)

 **Romans 2:4** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

 2. This is initiated by the **effectual** call of election. (**1 Peter 1:15; 2:9, 21**)

 **John 3:27** John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

 **1 Corinthians 4:7** For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

 **Romans 8:28-30** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. **29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

 **2 Thessalonians 2:14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

 The goal of the Christian is to live in a way that reflects Christ’s glorious attributes and His excellent moral character.

 **Proverbs 12:4** An excellent wife *is* the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame *is* like rottenness in his bones.

 **Proverbs 31:10** Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies.

 **Proverbs 31:29** "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."

 **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.

 **1 Peter 2:21-23** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: **22** "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; **23** who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

**III. The Divine promises encourage the New Life. v.4a**

 The term (“have been given” or “has granted”) is from the same verb (doreomai) that occurs in verse 3, again in the perfect tense, describing past action, with continuous results. (**Hebrews 8:6-12**)

 **Ezekiel 36:25-27** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

 **1 John 2:25** And this is the promise that He has promised us-- eternal life.

 The Divine promise references the Old Testament and New Testament promises for God’s own children and redeemed people. (**Ephesians 1:3, 4, 7, 8**)

 **Psalm 25:10** All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

 **Psalm 25:14** The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

 **Isaiah 55:3** Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-- The sure mercies of David.

 **Acts 26:6** "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.

**IV. The Divine presence enlightens the New Life. v.4b**

 A. The Divine presence **makes** us sharers.

 Partakers (sharers) (koinosos) is often translated “fellowship,” and means “sharers” or “partners.” Believers are in this present life partners or sharers in the very life of Christ.

 (**Matthew 28:20**)

 **Colossians 3:3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

 **1 John 5:11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

 **John 6:48-51** "I am the bread of life. **49** "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. **50** "This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **51** "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

 B. The Divine presence **means** is the Spirit.

 We are sharers in the “Divine nature.” This is a present and future certainty. Believers are right here, right now, possessors of God’s own Holy Spirit and eternal life.

 **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

 **Romans 8:9** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

 **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

 **Colossians 1:27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

 **Acts 1:8** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

 **John 15:26-27** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. **27** "And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

 **John 14:20-21** "At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

 **21** "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

 C. The Divine presence **manifestation** is sanctification.

 “We are not, as we were in the past, partakers, sharers, or fellowshipping in the corruption and evil of this age.” Having escaped “depicts a successful flight from danger, corruption, contamination or in this case the effects of

 1. the fallen nature,

 2. the sinfulness of the decaying world, and

 3. the final destruction.”

 [**The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 2 Peter and Jude, p.31**]

 (**James 4:1-3**)

 **2 Peter 2:18-20** For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. **19** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. **20** For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

 **1 John 2:15-16** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world.