

From Intention to Action

2 Peter 1:1-15

“Intention-Action Gap”

What is it? → When we don't do what we intended to do

Examples?

Why does it happen?

Matthew 21:28-32

Peter's goal: real change

“...so that you may *participate in the divine nature...*”

Genuinely become more like God!



2 Peter 1

• Verse 5-6

For this very reason, make every effort to
add to your faith goodness;
and to goodness, knowledge;
and to knowledge, self-control...

“Know” (experience, relationship)

God

“**Grace and peace** be yours in abundance *through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*” 1:2

“His divine power has given us everything we need **for a godly life** through *our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*” 1:3

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive *in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” 1:8

“If they have **escaped the corruption of the world** by *knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*” 2:20

“But grow in the grace and *knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” 3:18

His promises (the Gospel)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Forgiveness: “I will forgive their wickedness...”

Relationship: “I will be their God, and they will be my people...they will all know me”

Transformation: “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts”

Self-control

Actually following God's ways brings blessing

John 13:17 “...you will be blessed if you do them”

Luke 11:27-28 “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness **and self-control.**”

Galatians 5:22-23

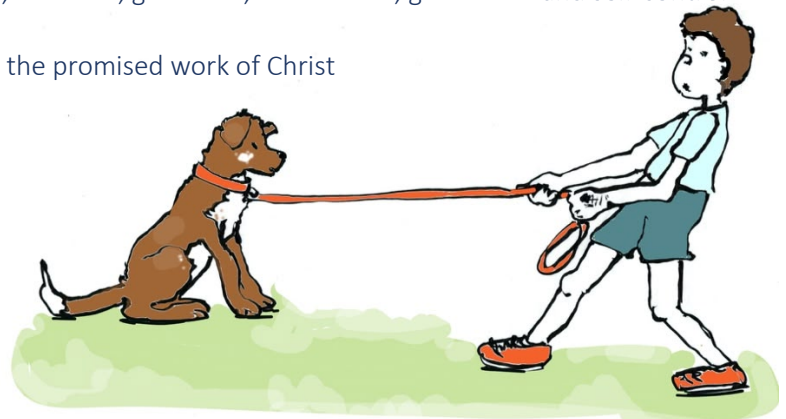
Bringing our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions into the promised work of Christ

The Big Idea

**Becoming more like God requires
growing in knowledge and growing in self-control
through human effort and divine power**

Inertia = the tendency to remain unchanged

Impulse = a sudden strong and unreasoning desire to act



will-power: resist temptation in the moment

self-control: be strategic so we are less dependent on will-power

Plan ahead to overcome...

Inertia: the tendency not to change

Impulse: the tendency to follow the least challenging or most enticing path in the moment

Putting it into practice

➤ Choose to grow in KNOWLEDGE

Head PLUS heart and hands

Of God: relationship

“Pour out your heart to Him” (Psalm 62:8)

Of the Gospel

Forgiveness

Relationship

Transformation

➤ Choose to grow in SELF-CONTROL

Plan to overcome inertia

Plan to overcome impulse

Challenge

By August 15...

I want to stop...

I want to be doing...

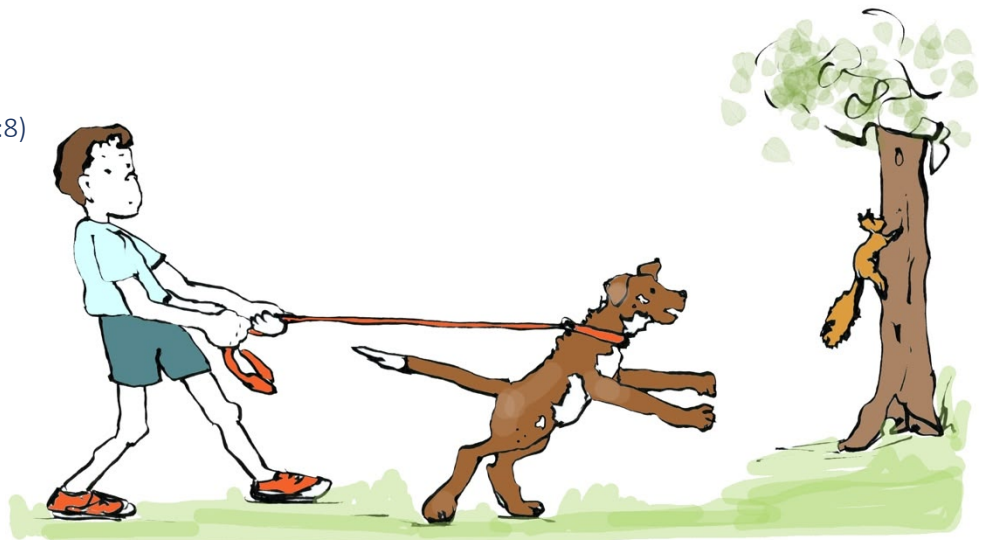
I want to change...

I want to have done...

- Pray daily
- Scripture: memorize, meditate, ...
- Action items for this month
- Find someone to do periodic check-ins

Knowledge: God and Gospel

Self-control



“Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Peter 3:17-18

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What practices help you grow in your genuine relationship with God? Is there a change that will help you grow in knowing Him more?
2. What practices help you grow in your genuine experience of the Gospel (forgiveness from God, relationship with God, transformation by God)? Is there a change that will help you grow in this genuine experience more?
3. What does it look like to grow in a self-control that reduces your dependence upon will-power?
4. Where is inertia (the tendency not to change) a challenge in your Christian life? Where is impulse (the tendency to follow the least challenging or most enticing path in the moment) a challenge in your Christian life?
5. What will you do to make every effort to grow in Christ? Consider: daily prayer, time in the Word, specific action plans, and accountability.

Conversation starters

What makes change hard? What helps bring the changes we want? Is there a change you are pursuing?