

- I. **The Practice of the Saint – Because of our Position in Jesus Christ, our Possession in Jesus Christ, and our Protection by Faith in Jesus Christ we are (v8-v11):**
- A. To be harmonious – to be on the same page with each other; to be united in the same mindset; oneness of thought; willingness to cooperate with one another in pursuing a God-honoring agenda (not necessarily thinking like someone, but having the same agenda as someone; being intent on the same purpose)
 - B. To be sympathetic – to come alongside and show understanding and support in someone’s misfortune or sorrow as well as success and well-doing
 - C. To be brotherly – to be affectionate and to have fondness towards another in the appropriate way as one would towards a brother or sister in absolute purity
 - D. To be kindhearted – to show sensitivity to/consideration for who the person is, who the person is not, and who the person is to become while being kind to them in the process
 - E. To be humble in spirit – to see who you are, who you are not, and who you need to become in the eyes of God and submitting to that accordingly resulting in presenting yourself before God and others appropriately, as suited for your God-given role in all matters
 - F. To not render evil for evil – to not walk in bad, harmful, wicked behavior towards someone in retaliation for the bad, harmful, wicked behavior they have walked in towards you
 - G. To not render insult for insult – to not speak verbally abusive words towards others or about others as result of them speaking verbally abusive words towards you or about you
 - H. To give a blessing – to speak well of, which could include calling down God’s gracious power and love, on all people- even on those who have been speaking evil towards or about you, who have done you harm, or who wish to do you harm- knowing what you will inherit from God¹

¹ David H. Wheaton, “1 Peter,” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 1378.

- I. To keep from speaking evil – to put an end to speaking that which is bad, harmful, wicked, inappropriate, or wrong to speak
- J. To keep from speaking deceit – to put an end to speaking fraud, trickery, or distortions of truth
- K. To turn away from evil – to turn away from living in a manner that God describes as wrong in all aspects of life
- L. To do good – to do what is morally excellent as prescribed by God in all aspects of life
- M. To seek and pursue peace – to strive towards having relationships that are harmonious, free from disputes, tranquil in operation

II. The Passion Behind the Practice of the Saint (v12):

- A. If we want to live in God's presence, blessing, refuge and help through life's problems (Psalm 34), we will choose to live a life of holiness mentioned above.
- B. If we value the reality that God is watching over His saints, listening to their prayers, and attending to their needs and concerns accordingly, we will choose to live a life of holiness mentioned above.
- C. If we respect and fear the fact that God is against anyone who does evil, we will choose to live a life of holiness mentioned above.

Key Concepts:

1. God is watching over His saints, paying careful attention to what they say and what they do, as well as what they need.
2. God is listening to the prayers of His saints, attending to their needs and concerns accordingly.
3. The life you are living right now reveals if you are valuing God and the life He offers you.
4. If you belong to God, then you should be walking in the practices mentioned above from the passion mentioned above. If you are not, then it is time to examine yourself to see where you stand with God.