



2 Peter 1:1-7

2 Peter 1:1-4

- **V. 1** – To those who have **obtained a faith** of equal standing (*same kind, like precious*) with ours
- Who supplies our faith?

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- **Hebrews 12:2** - looking to **Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...**
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been **saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,** 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- God supplies our faith

2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – by the **righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
- Peter understood that we receive our faith because Jesus is righteous (not us)
- We can only be righteous through Him
- That is the bar that is set for us
- Our new goal in life is to live righteously

2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 2 – May **grace and peace** be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:1-2** - Therefore, since we have been justified by **faith, (V.1)** we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this **grace** in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- Once we have obtained **Faith**, we experience **Grace and Peace**
- **Grace** grants those that believe (have faith), complete forgiveness forever through Jesus
- Because we are forgiven and Jesus covers our sin, we can be in God's presence and we are no longer at enmity (hostile) with God
- The result is that we are at **Peace** with God

2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 2 – May grace and peace be **multiplied** to you **in the knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- **Faith** supplied to us by God, because of His **Grace** in forgiving our sins, and allowing us to have **Peace** with God is the starting point for every new believer
- Increasing knowledge of God is the means by which that initial grace and peace grows and becomes powerful in your life
- If you want to experience God's grace and peace in your life, and effect the world around you (**multiplied**), your knowledge of Him has to grow
- When we study God's Word and gain in our knowledge of Him, grace and peace multiplies in us, which overflows in our life and into the world around us

2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 2 – May grace and peace be **multiplied** to you **in the knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- Do you ever wish you had the ability to change the world around you?
- Do you ever pray for lost people you know?
- They can only receive grace and have peace with God if they hear and understand the Word
- **Romans 10:13-17** - For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?...17 **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**
- Knowing the Lord in salvation is the starting point
- The rest of your life is a pursuit of greater knowledge to allow it to multiply in your life and overflow into others

2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 3 – His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,
- When it comes to our life and godliness, everything is provided for us
- It DOES NOT mean we play no part in it
- We could never have eternal life on our own
- But once we have obtained faith, God has provided all the tools and the power we need for godliness in our life

2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 3 – **through the knowledge** of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
- How is this divine power experienced and made active in our lives?
- Through knowledge of Him

2 Peter 1:1-4

- **V. 4** – by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having **escaped from the corruption** that is in the world because of sinful desire.
- There are 2 things we need above everything else:
 1. To be free from the power of sin that corrupts us
 2. To be united to God in His likeness
- The way to achieve that is through knowledge of Him, by understanding His precious and very great promises found in His Word
- Notice how these are opposites
- We once desired corruption
- Now we are to desire God's divine nature
- That is how we will approach the list of **v. 5-7**

2 Peter 1:5-11

- The qualities of v. 5-7 need to be increasing in your life
- They keep us from being useless and unfruitful in our relationship with Jesus
- They keep us from forgetting what God saved us from
- They keep us from stumbling in our walk
- They assure us of a triumphal entry into God's kingdom
- The opposite is also true if we neglect these qualities
- If we don't do these, we will forget what God has done for us and become useless and unfruitful in our relationship to God
- We will stumble and lose touch with the feeling of assurance God has given us

2 Peter 1:5-8

- Notice Peter is writing to believers, people who have obtained faith
- We are not working harder to become saved
- This diligent life-long effort from us is how we become disciples
- We never make it through these qualities and move on to something else
- This is not “how-to” instructions, but a list of the kind of person we are to become
- These are character qualities of God that should become evident in our lives as we try to become “partakers of the divine nature” in v.4
- Each quality does seem to build upon the one before it, but I think each quality can be in your life without “accomplishing” each step before it

2 Peter 1:5-8

- There are other lists in the Bible that are different:
- **Galatians 5:22-23** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- **1 Timothy 6:11** - But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

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- Because of this, I think this is a selected list and there are other character qualities we should pursue
- Which means this list was selected for a reason
- I believe it's because of the false teachers we will learn about in **Chap. 2-3**
- False teachers try to twist God's Word and confuse those who don't know it
- I think we should try to understand each quality and also understand the opposite of that quality so we can be more perceptive to false teachers

2 Peter 1:5 – Faith

- The first characteristic is different than all the others
- Faith has to be supplied to us before we can do anything
- You have to be saved (same for everything else that pertains to our walk with God, ex. God's will)
- **Hebrews 11:6** - **And without faith it is impossible to please him**, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- Once your saved, you have to build on that

2 Peter 1:5 – Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence**, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, (NASB)

- **Philippians 2:12-13** - So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, **continue working out your salvation** with awe and reverence, 13 for the one bringing forth in you both the **desire** and the effort—**for the sake of his good pleasure**—is God.
- God granted believers a complete and perfect salvation
- But at the same time, He requires we work it out by **applying all diligence**
- The doctrine of eternal security or perseverance of the saints is the objective fact that salvation is forever (for the one bringing you forth...is God)
- Assurance of salvation is the our subjective confidence that our salvation is forever
- Because we still live in this world and still battle our corrupt desires, we must pursue these qualities which is a **“desire...for the sake of his good pleasure”**
- By **applying all diligence**, God is glorified and we obtain assurance

2 Peter 1:5 – Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, (NASB)

- Moral excellence is probably the hardest to understand
- What does it mean and why does it come before knowledge?

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- Excellence is a quality that is usually a characteristic of God (not us) and is associated with His glory (V.3)
- God's glory is His virtue, His excellence, His very nature, which He is to be praised
- Before salvation, we were exactly the opposite
- **Romans 3:23** - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- In our sinful state, we refuse to give glory to God and worship other things
- **Romans 1:18-28**
- God revealed His nature, His glory, His excellence to sinful men, but they refused to glorify Him

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- The good news is that God sought out sinful men and gave them faith **(V.1)** in His Son
- He enabled them to become “partakers of the divine nature” **(V.4)**
- Since part of His nature is “His own glory and excellence” **(V.3)**, this should become part of our character too
- I DO NOT think this means that we are to receive glory and praise like God does
- **Philippians 4:8** - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, **if there is any excellence**, if there is **anything worthy of praise**, think about these things.
- **1 Peter 2:9** - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the **excellencies of him** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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- I think what moral excellence means is that we are to live in such a way that other people will give God glory
- Why does moral excellence come before knowledge?
- I personally think one of the most effective evangelistic times in your life is immediately after your salvation
- You are a completely changed person and are fearless of what other people think
- You broadcast it to the world at baptism
- You don't need tons of Bible knowledge to share Jesus with others
- You can do it immediately

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- A more Biblical answer is found in **Romans 1 and Ephesians 4**
- Sinful men rejected the glory of God and established their own glory
- As a result, they were given over to their debased minds (**V.28**) and they could not grasp divine truth (**V.18**)
- Because they rejected God's excellence and glory, they could not understand His truth (Word)
- Because of our salvation, we are now able to recognize the excellencies of God and give Him praise and proclaim it to others
- **Ephesians 4:17-25**

Ephesians 4:17-25 - Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that **you must no longer walk** as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 **They are darkened in their understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, **greedy to practice every kind of impurity**. 20 **But that is not the way you learned Christ!**— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your **former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires**, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, **created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness**. 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

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- You were “darkened in your understanding” (v.18)
- You were “ignorant” (V.18)
- You were “greedy to practice every kind of impurity” (V.19) (**Not excellence**)
- “Your former manner of life (was) corrupt through deceitful desires” (V.22) (**Not excellence**)
- But “you must no longer walk” (V.17) that way
- Because “that is not the way you learned Christ!” (V.20)
- You are now “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (V.24)
- Because of our salvation, we are now able to recognize the excellencies of God and give Him praise
- V.25 - Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor,

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- Because of our salvation (faith), we are now able to recognize the excellencies of God and give Him praise
- So “that you may proclaim the excellencies of him” (**1 Peter 2:9**) and “speak the truth with his neighbor,” (**Ephesians 4:25**)
- That’s why I think moral excellence means that we are to live in such a way that other people will give God glory
- And we can do it immediately after salvation without a deep knowledge of the Bible
- That initial excitement we have to praise God and share the gospel will soon fade and that’s why we need to continue in knowledge
- When we study God’s Word and gain in our knowledge of Him, grace and peace multiplies in us, which overflows in our life and into the world around us
- That’s why the rest of your life is a pursuit of greater knowledge to allow it to multiply in your life and overflow into others so God gets the glory