



2 Peter 1:1-11

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 that God does everything and we play no part in it
- 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. 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 – Faith

- The first characteristic is different than all the others
- Faith has to be supplied to us before we can do anything

Hebrews 11:6 - **And without faith it is impossible to please 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)

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.

- I think ultimately what moral excellence means is that we are to live in such a way that other people will give God glory
- Why?
- Because we are now able to see the excellencies of God in the world around us and give Him the credit for it

Why does moral excellence come before knowledge?

- We learned from **Romans 1** that 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.18-28)
- Because of our salvation, we are now able to recognize the excellencies of God and we can now understand His truth (Word)

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Knowledge

- Knowledge means a correct understanding, to properly comprehend, to discern
- We must know how to conduct ourselves properly before we actually conduct ourselves properly
- As unbelievers, we were not knowledgeable

1 Peter 1:14 - Like obedient children, do not comply with **the evil urges you used to follow in your ignorance**, (*NET*)

- Because we were this way, we need to renew our minds so we can discern

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing **you may discern** what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Knowledge

- You are never standing still in your walk with God
- You are either moving closer to God or back where you came from
- Renewing your mind and gaining in Knowledge is essential for us to grow toward God

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Knowledge

- We need to continue this renewing by studying the Word throughout our lives

Hebrews 5:12-14 - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 **for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.** 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their **powers of discernment trained by constant practice** to distinguish good from evil.

- A baby Christian will only grow as much as he purposefully reads and obeys and applies the Word to his life
- There are Christians who have been saved for many years, but spiritually they are still babies
- They cannot understand the deeper truths of the Word of God.

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Self-control

- Literally, “holding oneself in”
- It means to control your desires rather than letting them control you
- It’s not something you can do on your own

Ephesians 2:3 - ... **all of us** also formerly **lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest...(NET)

- Even Paul talks about his constant battle with his flesh in **Romans 7**
- You should have those struggles in your life also
- It’s how you know you’re being transformed
- Because of salvation (faith), you can recognize the excellencies and glory of God (moral excellence), and have a proper understanding of how to live for God through studying His Word (knowledge), which transforms your mind and causes you to obey righteousness instead of sin (self-control)

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Self-control

- It's not that God is trying to deny you of pleasure
- It's that what you take pleasure in changes to something greater

Philippians 3:8 - Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake **I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ**

- This is why we believe as a church, that the only thing worth presenting to you is The Word
- Why would we present something that appeals to your fleshly desires and would cause you to lose control (indulging fleshly desires)
- We cannot dilute the gospel to make it attractive to people by appealing to their fleshly desires

2 Peter 1:5-7 – perseverance, steadfastness, patience

- Endurance in doing what is right
- Not giving up to temptations, trials, difficulty, sin
- If self-control has to do with denying your old sinful pleasures, perseverance has to do with enduring pain
- It's what allows you to go through life's hardest trials and still see God's glory in them
- **Job 1**
- Perseverance is the commitment to suffer in the short term in order to experience glory for eternity

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Godliness

- The word used here as Godliness is a compound word meaning “good” and “worship”
- It’s the religion we should practice in day to day life
- It’s the opposite of idolatry
- It’s an attitude of reverence that seeks to please God in all things

- It’s a maturity in your walk with God that you strive to get to, as you take on more of His characteristics
- Once you’ve obtained salvation and can recognize His excellencies and glory, then you grow as you study the Word and your mind transforms to no longer desire your old way, but becomes willing to suffer for God’s glory
- It’s then you realize, how you live your day to day life is different

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Brotherly kindness, brotherly affection

- Love – *phileo* and brother – *adephos* = *Philadelphia*
- You used to love yourself, but now:

John 13:34-35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

- It's a commandment to love those that are your new family
- Everything up to this point has been about YOU growing
- Once you are less self-involved, you look to follow Jesus' example of service to other believers

2 Peter 1:5-7 – Love

- This is sacrificial, selfless, *agape* love
- It is the highest form of love
- While *phileo* love is directed toward other believers, *agape* love applies to believers and unbelievers

1 Thessalonians 3:12 - and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in **love for one another, and for all people**, just as we also do for you;

- It's a deliberate desire for the highest good of the one loved, which shows itself in sacrificial action for that persons good
- It's what Jesus did for us (**John 3:16**)
- Agape love is not prompted by what the other person is or does
- It is the love of God which flows through us

2 Peter 1:8-11

- 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 (v.8)
- They keep us from being so nearsighted we appear blind (v.9)
- They keep us from stumbling in our walk (v.10)
- They assure us of an abundant entry into God's kingdom (v.11)

2 Peter 1:8 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being **ineffective** or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Ineffective, useless, or lazy – shunning the labor which one ought to perform
- **Matthew 25:18-30**
- The 3rd servant put aside what God had given him and kept doing what he had always done because he was not a true believer
- Notice that increasing in the qualities of **V. 5-7** keep us from looking like an unbeliever

2 Peter 1:8 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Unfruitful - Fruitfulness has always been a characteristic of believers

Matthew 3:7-10 -But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 **Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.** 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. **Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

2 Peter 1:8 - For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13:23 - As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one **who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit** and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

Philippians 1:9-11 - And it is my prayer that your **love** may abound more and more, with **knowledge** and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is **excellent**, and so be **pure and blameless** for the day of Christ, 11 **filled with the fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

2 Peter 1:9 - For whoever lacks these qualities is **so nearsighted that he is blind**, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

- If you don't increase in the characteristics of **V. 5-7**, you appear to be so nearsighted that you look like someone who is blind in the faith
- **John 9**
- If you lack the qualities of **V. 5-7**, you look no different than a blind, unbeliever
- You are nearsighted because you can't see back far enough to remember what you have been saved from
- You should be able to look back on your life and see how God has transformed you

2 Peter 1:10 - Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

- How do we do that and how often should we do it?
- I think we need to distinguish between **testing** to see if we're in the faith and living to **confirm** we are in the faith

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the **test!** 6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the **test.**

- There's a difference in being told to test yourself to see if you're saved and being told to confirm your salvation

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the **test!** 6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed the **test.**

- In the Corinthian church there was a real conflict between Paul and some people in Corinth that gave evidence that they may not be true Christians
- Paul was dealing with an unrepentant group who claimed to be Christians, but they continually lived in sin and were not repenting
- I think the command to “test” themselves was not an ordinary thing Paul did
- I don’t think it’s something he’s telling us to regularly do (ex. - daily)
- This is for when people are living a life out of step with their profession of faith and are giving significant evidence they may not be a true Christian
- They are NOT increasing in the qualities of **V. 5-7**

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- So how often should we test ourselves?
- Taking it in context of what was happening in Corinth, I think we should “test” to see if we’re truly saved only rarely, at critical points in your life when you have drifted away from following God and His Spirit
- When you’ve been called out by your own conscience
- Or when somebody else calls you out

2 Peter 1:10 - Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure**, for if you practice these qualities you will **never fall**.

- This describes a more regular way to think about the relationship between our faith and evidence in our life that we're saved
- If you're practicing the qualities in **V. 5-7**, that is the confirmation of your calling and election
- I think Peter means, live your life in such a way that you are daily confirming you're saved
- You can be confident (assured) that Jesus counts you righteous and then walk in obedient faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, all for the glory of Christ
- Day by day, pursue a life of righteousness and let that confirm your calling
- So that you never stumble

2 Peter 1:11 - for in this way the **entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be **abundantly supplied to you.** (NASB)

- What does the entrance to heaven normally look like?

Matthew 7:13-14 - "**Enter through the narrow gate;** for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the **gate is small and the way is narrow** that leads to life, and there are **few who find it.**

2 Peter 1:11 - for in this way the **entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be **abundantly supplied to you.** (NASB)

- How wide is the entrance to heaven?

John 14:1-6 - Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going. 5 Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? 6 **Jesus said to him, I am the way,** and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**

- It's the width of Jesus to be exact

2 Peter 1:11 - for in this way the **entrance into the eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be **abundantly supplied to you.** (NASB)

- If you are increasing in **V. 5-7**, the assurance that you are going to enter heaven will be overwhelming to you
- The entrance will be abundantly supplied to you
- So as you walk in this world, no matter what is going on around you, you can have the confidence that you can't miss the entrance to heaven

