

## 2 Peter 1:2-11

The sermon series that we are beginning today is the product of years of frustration, meditation, prayer, and study.

1. The frustration was present because, though there seems to be a desire on the part of most professing Christians to evangelize and make disciples...at least in theory... there also seems to be little clarity on how to do so.
  - a. I believe this is due in part to the fact that many of us have never really been discipled ourselves, so we don't know what it looks like to disciple.
  - b. Also, if honest, many of us personally struggle to live the Christian life, so when we look at ourselves we think...I don't want to reproduce this!
2. So, we preach on making disciples, we write books on making disciples, we have conferences on making disciples; but we never seem to make disciples.

Wouldn't it be great if God had just given us a clear process for maturing and making disciples? It seems that in these few verses, Peter gives early Christians a comprehensive, Holy Spirit inspired discipleship process that will produce mature and reproducing disciples.

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 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).*

As we introduce this study, I want us to consider 6 “P words” that will help us get an overview of the entire text. Then we will spend the next several weeks walking through the progression of discipleship Peter unfolds for us.

### **I. Provision**

*2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,*

Peter is making clear, in the very beginning that the Christian gospel does not initially ask us to do anything; it first of all proclaims and announces to us what God has done for us.

1. He has provided us everything...specifically everything pertaining to life and godliness
2. Everything pertaining to life and godliness has been granted to us, given to us, provided to us free of charge!

- a. God didn't meet you half way. You didn't meet Him half way. He came all the way.
- b. You didn't bring some positive things to the table.
- c. Everything...everything...everything came from Him.

2. James 1:17 *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

3. He provided us everything pertaining to life and godliness...

*through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

1. He not only provided us everything pertaining to life and godliness, but He called us by His own glory and excellence!

2. 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

3. Paul referred to calling in this way regularly.

a. 2 Thess 2:14 *It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

b. Romans 8:30 *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

God has provided to us all that we need through the knowledge of Him who called us.

1. Let this word provision sink into your heart and mind.

a. He provided us, by His grace, everything pertaining to life and godliness.

b. Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

2. *Being a disciple of Christ, in other words, does not begin with something we do. It begins with something Christ did. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep (John 10:11). He loved the church and therefore gave himself up for her (Eph 5:25). He paid a debt that he didn't owe, but that we owe, and then he united us to himself as his holy people. Dever—14*

## **II. Promises**

*4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises,*

He has granted to us things pertaining to life and godliness...and by these things he granted to us even more: His promises.

### **1. Precious Promises**

a. That word precious implies valued, costly, or of great price

b. 1 Peter 1:18-19 *knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ*

## 2. Magnificent Promises

- a. This word magnificent implies large, great
  - b. Hebrews 10:21 *and since we have a great priest over the house of God,*
  - c. That word great used about the greatness of Jesus is the same word Peter uses here pertaining to our promises
3. He has given us, freely, by grace...
    - a. Precious (blood of Jesus precious)
    - b. And magnificent (greatness of Jesus magnificent) promises so that by them (the promises) you may be like Him! and escape corruption.

## III. Partakers

*4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

We have been given everything we need for life and godliness, called by Him, and given precious and magnificent promises...so that by them you may become partakers!

1. What are we to be partakers of?
2. The divine nature!
3. How is this possible?
  - a. Because of all that God has provided us! Everything pertaining to life and “godliness”
  - b. But also because we are escaping the corrupt hat is the world by lust!

Ephesians 4:22-24 *in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

## IV. Progression

*5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.*

As diligent followers of Christ our faith will supply moral excellence and our moral excellence will supply knowledge etc.

1. God furnishes us with faith...out of that faith comes, or issues, virtue which then produces knowledge etc. etc. In essence...every thing pertaining to life and godliness comes from Him (since he is the one who provided faith in the first place)

2. *Of each pair of graces here mentioned, the one is to be in the other, like adjoining colors of the rainbow—mingled with it, and exhibited along with it—and then all coalesce into one bright orb of beauty, binding together heaven and earth, God and man. For of the glorious arch faith is the starting point and the consummation is love. LILLIE*

Some translations say add to your faith moral excellence or add to your faith virtue.

1. Because you are partakers of His provision and His promises, you, apply all diligence: make every effort.
2. We do not just put forth some effort, or simply “be diligent.”
3. No we give 100%, we apply all diligence...after all, it is only logical that one who provided so much and made us partakers of so much would deserve and demand that we leave it all on the field for Him.

This raises the million dollar question: do we add to our faith, or does our faith supply us with something? I think the answer is both and.

1. God works in and through the faith he has provided us to produce moral excellence.
2. Yet we must and should, with all diligence, pursue moral excellence and seek to add to our faith the spiritual elements that bring about maturity.
3. We see this dual idea in Philippians 2
4. Philippians 2:12-13 *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*
5. So, lets go after these qualities in full reliance upon God who gives every good gift to his children

## **V. Produce**

There is a provider, promises, a partaker and a progression here. We also see what Peter’s discipleship strategy produces in us.

1. There is an expectation on the part of Peter, that when met, comes with some powerful fruit.
2. This is amazing.

**8** *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

If these things are abundantly present in a believer’s life and actually on the increase, that reality will cause him to be...

**1. Useful v8a**

*they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. The word useless here, can be translated Barren, idle, or slothful MMWILLIAMS
2. These qualities will keep us from becoming sideline sitting spectators of the faith: useful.

**2. Fruitful v8b**

*they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. With the increasing presence of these qualities in our lives we will not be unfruitful.
2. This is crucial, because Jesus made it clear that we will be known by our fruits (Matt 7:16, 20).

**3. Clarity v9**

*9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*

1. Those who lack the virtues in question are near-sighted
  - a. They may have 20/20 vision when looking at things near and of this world
  - b. But be unable to see things which are eternal and invisible.
2. *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face;  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.*
3. If we fail to turn our eyes upon Jesus, the things of heaven will grow strangely dim in the sight of this worldly place

**4. Security v10**

*10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;*

1. James 3:2 *For we all stumble in many ways.*
2. *You shall not by any means fall ever. It may be a life of many storms, but it is not possible that it should end in shipwreck. LILLIE*

**5. Supply v11**

*11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

1. If these qualities are ever increasing in us we will be supplied...with what? Entrance into the eternal kingdom! Eternal life!
2. In essence...sow to the Spirit with a progressing maturity and you will reap eternal life.
3. Gal 6:8 *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

## VI. Priority v12-15

*12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.*

1. Peter was going to make pounding this into them his number 1 priority before he died.
  - a. God has provided you with every thing you need...saving, transforming faith.
  - b. As you apply all diligence in your faith-walk
    1. You will see your faith produce moral excellence and your moral excellence will bring forth knowledge, etc.
    2. You will labor to add to your faith moral excellence and to your moral excellence you will add knowledge etc.
  - c. If these qualities become yours and are increasing...you will not be useless, unfruitful, blind, or at risk of falling away, but you will have the kingdom abundantly supplied to you!
2. Pretty important huh?