

“1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” (2Pe 1:1-10)

"Making your calling and election sure."

I. Precious Promises of Faith II. Far sighted Faith, Diligence Required; III Specifics

I. Great Promises Regarded:

A. Like Precious Faith. Through the righteousness of God and our Savior. Vs. 1

B. Grace and Peace multiplied: through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Not the charm and showmanship of the minister

2. So many today are like those described in Isaiah 29:8-13 READ

C. All things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Christ: called to glory and virtue. Vs. 3

1. Life and godliness. Christ will teaches His people how to live godly. Titus 2: 11 ¶ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

2. Called to glory and virtue. This could be by “by” God’s glory and virtue. But either way is biblical truth. We do not glorify ourselves; nor do we become by our own strength.

a. Glory: Matthew 13: 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine

forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

b. Virtue. Power. Or every moral and spiritual excellence. These things are spiritual power. True manliness, for it is related to this idea.

D. Wonderful Promises: to escape the lust of the world and be restored to the image of God. Vs. 4

II. Great Diligence is Required for this farsighted faith.: vs. 9, 10

A. Without diligence our election is uncertain; not to God, but to us. This is the meaning of the tense here: make it sure to yourself. Peter joins the transcendence of God to the immanence of God. We will expect to find the results of election in the world. These results are the work of the Holy Spirit that is given to us. We will have no assurance of faith; no true fellowship with Christ or his people, if we do not diligently do the things that Peter sets before us.

B. Without diligence our lives will be characterized by stumbling: the figure is from a surefooted horse, which can navigate a treacherous trail without stumbling.

C. Without diligence We are blind, being nearsighted: a strange mixture of words. We cannot see things the way they ought to be. Christians are not blind, but they may be so near-sighted that they may be the same as blind as far as their discernment is concerned. Self-centered; self-absorbed, etc.

D. Seeking your power, righteousness, glory in yourself is an idolatry. You were created to find these things in God, not in the things of the world.

E. Without diligence, we will be unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is not lazy; nor does it sleep, because it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Faith answers to the exhortation to "Awake, thou that sleepest, and rise from the dead, and God will give you light." Lazarus heard the voice of Christ that penetrated the tomb and the abode of the dead.

F. On the other hand: if we do these things, we will have an abundant Christian life, and an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom.

III. Great Abundance is the reward of Diligence. Vs. 4-7 I only want to deal with the first part of this today, and the rest next week. I would like to preach for 2 hours, but I recognized the law of diminished returns.

A. We must remember that the world is actively evil, and Satan walks around as a roaring lion. But everything has been given to us and we are called to appropriate them through faith.

B. We escape the evil and its corruption and can be what we are created to be: the true images of God. "partakers of the divine nature" not merged into God, or deified; but true images.

- C. The promises of God are not dead abstractions, but living wisdom and urge us on to greater heights and attainments in our knowledge of God.
- D. Here is the practica vs. 5-7. A list of [in King James] eight things: Virtue, Knowledge; Temperance; Patience; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness; Charity. Each one that comes after is supposed to be “added” to the one just before it on the list. Virtue to Faith; Knowledge to Virtue, etc. This is not philosophy, this is practical and life directing—much of this gives legs to what is written in the book of Proverbs. The Lord Jesus Christ is the focus and example of the meaning of this passage.
- E. It is important to note the following:
1. This is not a ladder; for faith includes all of these, and they are developed together and perfected together; but this passage does show the relationship between the aspects of faith, and shows how each of them is perfected.
 2. The “adding” is not the addition of something new, as you put a new wing on your house. It is more like the adding of weight, or skill in basketball, or reading harder books. If you are a Christian, you have all these things, but not as you ought to have them. Diligence is required to be what you ought to be in the Lord.
 3. In the same way, each of these gifts of faith are foundational for the one that comes after. You cannot start with the best gifts at the end of the list, but must strengthen your soul so that these can develop, built upon the former things. But let us look at the passage. Faith is the foundation of all that comes after: Verses 1; but Grace and Peace are multiplied through knowledge.
 4. Adding to Faith:
 - a. Add virtue to faith. "virtue" = "force, excellence" a life rightly and honestly formed. vs. 3. Manly righteousness; obedience to God. "Manly" is generic: the species. Be what you are created to be. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We are under his rule and law; works make faith perfect; and good works are impossible without faith.
 - b. Add knowledge to virtue. Knowledge=practical wisdom. Good sense. We are not blind moralists, who close our eyes, grit our teeth, and stick to principles we know not from whence!! Lies and vain works and empty lives must be cured with truth.
 - (1). Virtue is the foundation of knowledge. You cannot know until you do. "If ye continue in my word..." John 8:30-32 30 As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- (2). Knowledge perfects virtue: (H.C. #91) Illus. Christmas Trees.
Zeal toward God without knowledge can be damaging.

With this, I will close off today, and leave the rest for next week, but I do not want to short change these precious things.

But I want to make some applications:

1. You know a lot more than you think you know. But you may also think you know much more than you do know. This is the frailty of our human condition. Not realizing what God has given you leads to foolishness and self centeredness and self confidence; But thinking you know too much leads to pride and self righteousness. These two rocks to avoid. All things are give you, but you must seek them in Christ, according to His provision for you.
2. Because of this, you have to work it out. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." The statue is in the marble, but the sculptor has to find it.
3. Abundance in your Christian life awaits the patience, and agony, and labor of this diligence.

May God bless you.