

What does it take for us to believe this? It takes taking God at His Word. It takes believing that God can and has given us what we need to live godly lives in an ungodly world. It takes believing that God's power is stronger than all of our own sinful desires.

What is godly living? It's just living the way we are always meant to live.

1:3 says, "His divine power has granted to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness." There are no required tools missing from the toolbox. All of the essential machinery is already in the machine shed. The backpack is loaded up with all the stuff that this journey requires.

Do you believe that? Do you believe that God has given you all that you need to live in His world in the way that glorifies Him (no matter where you are or whom you're with)? Do you believe that every sinful pattern in your life can be defeated? Do you believe that God's power is stronger than all of your sinful desires? Do you believe that change can happen in every area where change is needed? Do you believe that you can step out of the shadows and live in the light?

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

Who has set us up to succeed at living godly lives? Who gave us this gift? Our Lord Jesus Christ is the source. By His power (see the end of 1:2 for the antecedent of "His" in 1:3, and see also 1:16), He has equipped us with everything essential to godly living. It's His gift to us. Now that we've been brought into a reconciled relationship with God through genuine faith in Jesus Christ and have been spiritually united with Christ, we are outfitted with all that we need for this long-term spiritual reconstruction project called "sanctification." A real spiritual overhaul is in the works, and nothing that's needed is on backorder.

through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 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.

How has all that we need for godly living come to us as a gift from Jesus our Lord? It has come to us through our knowing Him. The "him" in 1:3 is Jesus, as is made clear in 1:8, 2:20, and 3:18. You must personally know *the* Lord Jesus Christ as *your* Lord Jesus Christ. You will not become like Him if you do not know Him. He must occupy our minds and capture our hearts.

We need to know this Jesus with both accuracy and clarity, and so we must go to the Bible (both the OT and NT), for those Scriptures are indeed God's written-down revelation (see 2 Peter 1:12-21 and 3:14-18). They tell us who the Lord Jesus Christ is without error. This Bible-based knowledge of Jesus is a must-have.

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How does His life-changing power reach us? How does His power make contact with our lives so that it can change us? How can the pulling power of the world in our lives be weakened and defeated?

God brought us to life spiritually through our coming into contact with His Word (specifically, the Gospel/good news about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ). We came to life through hearing, understanding, and believing this good news message (1 Peter 1:22-25). And it is through further contact with His Word that He changes our lives, that He builds on what He started at our conversion. His life-changing power flows to us through His promises. Growing is dependent upon knowing.

"Does Bible knowledge guarantee godliness? It doesn't.
But it seems that Bible ignorance guarantees ungodliness."

This is how we resist the "tractor beam" of the world. This is how we "become partakers of the divine nature." That is, this is how we become like God morally (not ontologically). This is how we share in His moral character. We never become God, but we become like God.

"If we would know God and be godly,
we must know the Word of God—intimately."

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 must be a sense in which genuine Christians have (past tense) escaped from the corruption (moral decay/rotteness) that's everywhere in the world. There is a way in which we have already escaped, but our escape is not a full or complete escape. For example, 1 Peter 2:9-11 warns us about the ongoing danger we face from our own sinful desires. It tells us the war with our own flesh isn't over. And according to 1:8-10, this escape from the world's corruption is not necessarily a permanent escape. Furthermore, it seems that there are people who hear about Jesus, get involved with a church, etc., but don't genuinely trust in Jesus, and yet they experience an artificial, superficial, and/or temporary escape from the moral decay of the world (2:17-20).

So, though we are so blessed and much, much better off than we were before, we are still in great danger. Yes, we're not dead spiritually. Praise God that we're not powerless or hopeless spiritually. We have been brought to life! We now have new, godly desires alongside our old, sinful desires. But our fight against our own flesh is a fight we cannot win without His power at work in our lives as we make contact with His promises in His Word. Can we live authentic godly lives as those who now know Jesus our Lord? We can, but we must stay connected with Christ through His Word. This godliness doesn't happen in an instant, and it won't happen apart from His Word. But godliness can and does happen. See also Ephesians 4:17-24.

Do you care about this? Do you desire to live a godly life? Possessing (having) **eternal life** and pursuing (living) a **holy life** go together. If you aren't concerned about holy living, then you probably are without eternal life. The NT consistently teaches that pursuing holiness marks those who have the hope (the confident expectation) of seeing and being with Christ forever. See also Hebrews 12:12-17 and 1 John 3:1-3. Please turn in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ today for forgiveness and eternal life if you still need to! He died and rose to give you life!

All Scripture quotations taken from the ESV.

Lacking Nothing for Godly Living

2 Peter 1:3-4

False teachers, failed pastors, hypocritical church goers, scandal after scandal involving folks who claim to belong to Jesus Christ...

Is everyone a fake? Is everybody just playing church? Are they all saying and praying and singing one thing, but living the opposite? Do they all talk big about the freedom that Jesus offers while they themselves are still slaves to their own sinful lusts?

It's easy to get suspicious and skeptical. With so many religious pretenders, one starts to wonder if there is any truth to the claim that Jesus can forgive and change sinners who truly trust in Him.

Can you tell me it's true? Can you tell me that the failures of people who carry Bibles and call themselves Christians do not disprove the truth proclaimed inside those Bibles?

Do Christians really have a fighting chance at becoming Christ-like? In such a seductive world as ours, and with such sinful desires as ours, is there some way that we can become authentically godly people? Do we who now have faith in Christ and who are now reconciled to God through Christ actually have what it takes for us to live godly lives? Is there really any hope for us to be different?

The answer comes to us in this letter as Peter continues writing:

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

Do we have what it takes to live a godly life? We do. Everything necessary to live a life that reveres and obeys and reflects God/Jesus our Lord is ours right now. There is nothing we lack. We can honor God in every situation, location, and relationship.

We don't have to be sin addicts. We don't have to be hypocrites. We can break free from living a double life. We don't have to be defeated Christians. Authentic, consistent godliness is possible.