

Essential Links in the Chain of Sanctification

2 Peter 1:1-11

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I. What God Provides - Everything (vv. 1-4)

A. Salvation

1. escape from the clutches of depravity (v. 4)
2. calling (v. 3)
3. "knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord" (v. 3)
4. "faith of the same value" as the apostles (v. 1) and "faith... in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 1)

B. The indwelling of God Himself

C. All that we need for all that He requires

1. multiplied "grace & peace" (v. 2)
2. the needed "knowledge" (v. 4) for everything in the next point
3. A powerful grant of "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (v. 3)
4. "promises" (v. 4)

II. What We Must Do (vv. 5-7)

A. We Must Exercise Diligence In Gaining Biblical Knowledge (vv. 2-4 & 5)

1. "all things that pertain to life and godliness" come
 - a) "through the knowledge of Him" (v. 3)
 - b) through God's "great and precious promises" (v. 4)
2. therefore we must be in the Word and be diligent to add knowledge (v. 5)

B. We Must Exercise Diligence In Claiming God's Provisions By Faith (vv. 2,4,5)

C. We Must Exercise Diligence In Using All God's Building Blocks (vv. 5-

1. Faith (v. 5)
 - a) Faith gives us a God-centered focus.
 - b) Faith by its very nature lays claim to God's resources. We "add" only what we have faith to claim.
 - c) Faith always trusts God's ways to be best.
2. Virtue (v. 5)
 - a) Virtue (Greek *arete*,) means 1) "moral integrity," and 2) "energy"
 - b) Virtue implies *commitment to God's way* before we even hear what God's way is
 - c) NB: dead faith accomplishes nothing. God calls for living faith.
3. Knowledge (v. 5)
 - a) Ascertaining God's blue-prints for righteousness
 - b) Insight into how we tick
 - c) Renewing the mind through the Word
 - d) NB: It takes virtue to be willing to study the Bible, knowing that we may discover many uncomfortable things.
4. Self-Control (v. 6)
 - a) A willingness to crucify the flesh
 - b) Doing what we don't want to do
 - c) NB: It takes knowledge of how out of accord we are with God's Word to even require self-control. There would be no need for self-control if our walk was

(Over)

easy and nothing more of God's will was learned.

5. Perseverance (v. 6)

- a) Refusing to give up. We will only get a harvest if we don't give up (Gal. 6:9)
- b) A long term vision. Success is not overnight
- c) NB: It takes self-control to persevere; to be in this for the long haul.

6. Godliness (v. 6)

- a) This denotes a maturing where all areas of life are becoming more consistent biblical
- b) Godliness means that our testimony shines forth God's character
- c) NB: When we persevere in one area of our lives, it gives us strength and growth in all other areas of life as well. Without perseverance there can be no godliness since we are either advancing or retreating.

7. Brotherly Kindness (v. 7)

- a) Sensitivity to others
- b) Gentleness and kindness to others with sin
- c) NB: When we are godly, we are never "holier than thou." On the contrary, knowing full well our own sinfulness and struggles, we are sympathetic to the struggles of others; we desire to help and encourage others in overcoming their sins. Godly people should be the most tender and non-judgmental.

8. Love

- a) Agape love is self-sacrificial service.
- b) Love is the opposite of self-centered or selfish actions.
- c) NB: When we are motivated to minister to others through brotherly kindness, we find ourselves engaging in the kind of self-sacrificial love that thinks of their welfare more than our own.

III. Why We Must Be Diligent (vv. 8-11)

- A. The more consistently we have these graces, the more fruitful we will be (v. 8)
 - 1. Note that knowledge without these graces is sterile.
 - 2. Knowledge must be fruitful to have God's blessing
- B. When you lack these things you are shortsighted and live for the moment (v. 9)
- C. When you lack these things you are acting like the blind unbeliever who has never been forgiven (v. 9)
- D. When you are diligent in pursuing holiness you have assurance of salvation (v. 10)
- E. When you are diligent in pursuing holiness you will not fall into bondage (v. 10)
- F. When you are diligent in pursuing holiness you are preparing for heaven (v. 11)
 - 1. This implies that what we do on earth impacts what we will do in heaven
 - 2. This implies the doctrines of rewards. Heaven will be a place of different rewards and different responsibilities. Those who excel on earth will enter into far greater privileges than those who do not.