

2 Peter 1:2-11

We have spent the past couple of months looking at Peter's comprehensive, Holy Spirit inspired discipleship process here in 2 Peter 1. We are going to conclude the series, the same way we introduced it: with a 30,000 feet flyover view of the text as a whole. This time however instead of looking forward in curiosity, I hope that we are going to look back in clarity!

I want us to consider again those 6 "P words" that we began with a couple months back. This will help us get an overview of the entire text in our rearview mirror, and hopefully some good application.

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,

1. He has provided us everything...specifically everything pertaining to life and godliness...by His grace, free of charge!
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...and He has done this...
through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

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 of the divine nature...to be God-like, godly.

1. 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 corruption that is in the world by lust!

2. 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.*

IV. Progression

Here is where we have spent the bulk of our time over these past couple of months...

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.

There is an 8 part systematic strategy for spiritual growth and maturity that Peter gives.

1. Faith

- a. Am I living a life that is characterized by confessing Christ and embracing the Gospel?
- b. Am I living a life characterized by righteousness?
- c. Am I living a life characterized by love?
- d. Am I living a life of increased loyalty to God and separation from the world?
- e. Am I living a life of steadfastness, perseverance, and endurance?
- f. Does the Spirit of God reside in us? Do we have the Son?
- g. Do we Listen to the Word of God?
- i. GOSPEL

2. Moral Excellence

Moral excellence, or virtue, is moral energy that courageously, vigorously, and actively lives out the faith with great fortitude just like the early church did in the face of continual opposition, suffering, and persecution.

3. Knowledge

- a. This knowledge is, I believe, referring to knowledge of Jesus.

Jesus our Lord

1. v2. *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of*
2. v3. *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*
3. v8 *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*
4. 2 Peter 2:20 *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*
5. 2 Peter 3:18 *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- b. We must know Jesus biblically and personally...in truth, and experience.

4. Self Control

1 Cor 9:24-27 *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

5. Perseverance

1. Perseverance does not give in to testing or temptation
2. It doesn't give up on Christ's return or our reward
3. It doesn't give out and throw in the towel, but presses forward

6. Godliness

Godliness is a general name for religious duties, for our duties in reference to God, in contra-distinction to our duties in reference to ourselves and our fellow men. It is descriptive of the right state of the individual with regard to God—the right state of his mind, of his heart, and of his life—of his thoughts, his affections, and his conduct—the right way of thinking, feeling and acting towards God. John Brown

7. Brotherly Kindness

- a. Minister to the Brethren
- b. Honor the Brethren
- c. Show hospitality to the brethren
- d. Be an encouragement to the brethren

8. Love

- a. Agape love
- b. 1 Corinthians 13 love.
- c. A Christ-like love

V. Produce

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing,

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 and Fruitful for the Kingdom v8a

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

2. Clear Sight v9

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

3. 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;

4. 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.

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.
2. Let's do the same.

Applications:

1. Long Term plan...devotions etc.
2. Immediate and short term plan:

Does my life give evidence that I have saving faith? If not, what needs to happen in order for me to have saving faith?

Am I boldly, courageously, and actively living out the faith with great fortitude? If so, how can I do so more consistently? And If not, what is standing between me and moral excellence?

Am I growing in my biblical understanding of Jesus and in my personal experience with Jesus? What do I need to do on a day to day basis to increase my understanding of Him?

Am I disciplining every part of my body and bringing it under control? What parts of my body and life are most undisciplined? What changes do I need to make today to increase in self control?

Am I steadfast and persevering in the faith? If not, what causes me to doubt and stagnate? How can I avoid those things and pursue perseverance?

Am I growing in godliness, being characterized by the divine nature rather than the corruption that is in the world? What is it in my life that is hindering my God-likeness? How do I need to restructure my day to day life to avoid those hindrances and pursue godliness?

Am I practicing brotherly kindness by serving, honoring, encouraging, and showing hospitality to my brothers and sisters in Christ? If not, why not?

Am I loving like Jesus? What is it that causes your love for others to grow cold? What needs to change in your day to day life to soften your heart towards others?