

2Peter Chapter 1 Like Precious Faith

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 Saviour Jesus Christ:

Peter affirms that he is an apostle of Jesus Christ. Apostle meaning: *a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ (with miraculous powers): messenger, he that is sent.*

Peter is writing too "**to them that have obtained like precious faith**". Notice; how they got that like precious faith; "**through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**" Jesus Christ is the only source of faith, and salvation by grace, as seen in; **Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** Since, it is not of ourselves; both faith and grace are the gift of God through Jesus Christ. The gift of grace is specifically spelled out in: **Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of 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:

How are grace and peace multiplied? "**through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**" How is it that we obtain knowledge? Through study of the written testimony of God, and Christ, the bible, and by revelation through the Holy Spirit. This verse alone is enough to prompt us to the study of God's holy word of truth. There are many verses of scripture about knowledge, here are a couple more:

- **Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;** Notice the process: walk, good work, increase.
- **2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.** Notice the encouragement to grow in grace.

Having been born again, by the divine power of God; we have inherited, that which pertains to our salvation here, and that needed to live a godly life. Christ has given us life, light, revelation, knowledge, love, peace that passes all understanding, and all other things necessary for our life as a Christian. However, we notice; this comes only through knowledge of him; him is Jesus Christ. Certainly; if we have been born again, we have knowledge of Jesus Christ. Salvation is quite simply, understanding that we have been miraculously given newness of life. The grace that is the understanding that we have been born again.

Do not miss; we have been called to the glory and virtue of this salvation. Glory means: *dignity, honour, praise, worship.* Virtue means: *manliness (valor), excellence, praise.* Quite simply; we are called to be men of stature, in our earthly salvation, and to be sons of God. This is applicable to both sexes, male and female.

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.

What are some of these "**exceeding great and precious promises?**" Knowledge of:

- The coming of Christ, the Messiah, the Saviour of God's people: **Ac 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:**

- Salvation was not for the Jews only, but also the Gentiles: *Ro 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*
- Being given faith to believe in Jesus: *Ga 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*
- Being enabled to believe in Jesus: *Ga 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*
- Understanding that we are heirs, and joint heirs with Christ, in the eternal promise of God: *Ga 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*
- Being enabled to hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ: *Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*
- That we might have the hope of earthly and eternal salvation: *1Ti 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*
- That we might have the surety of eternal salvation: *2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- The encouragement in our earthly salvation, the vision of an eternal home prepared by Jesus for us: *2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*
- Having eternal life in Jesus Christ: *1Jo 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

"that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." This tells us; being born again, we have become new creatures in Christ, and as such have a new "**divine**" nature, which enables us to overcome our inherit sin nature.

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.

It is easily discernable from these verses; there are many gifts available to us, if we are willing to take the action of "**giving all diligence**." Diligence means: "*speed*", *despatch*, *eagerness*, *earnestness*, *business*, *earnest carefulness*, *forwardness*, *haste*. Add to means: *to furnish besides*, *fully supply*, *aid or contribute*, *minister* (*nourishment*, *unto*). It is obvious from these definitions; that we are to be doing something once we are born again, which is to grow up and mature in the knowledge of Christ.

It is equally obvious; if we are diligent, in exercising our faith and knowledge, we shall be blest by God, with the abundance of the joy of our salvation, and our knowledge of our Saviour and Lord. Jesus himself told us that the scriptures were a testimony of himself.

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.

The opposite is also true; if we do not study the bible, exercise in faith, and bring forth much glory to God, we are not going to receive the blessing of abundance, and shall be blind to the joy of salvation by grace. We shall not know, see or understand; our sins have been forgiven by the finished work of Christ.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Is "***give diligence to make your calling and election sure:***" talking about your eternal salvation? Absolutely not. It is talking about your salvation here, in time, on earth. Why did God give all the ceremonial and sacrificial laws to Israel? Why did God require them to teach and learn them? It was for their walk on the earth. It was not to gain the eternal kingdom. It was to give God's name glory on the earth. The same is true for us today. If we work out our salvation "***with fear and trembling***" it brings glory to the name of God, here on the earth. We are told this same thing in: ***Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

If we have been born again, here in time, we certainly have the promise of being in the eternal kingdom of God. The knowledge that we are born again here; is the revelation of seeing, the open door to eternal life, in Jesus Christ, through whom we are given entrance in the eternal kingdom.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Peter tells the church; in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, I am constantly reminding you of the "***exceeding great and precious promises***". The same is true for us today. This is why; we are to exhibit the gifts denoted above, and as seen in:

- ***Ac 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.***
- ***Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

Knowing that shortly I shall be put to death, I exhort you to remember, now and after I am gone, that; all we have is a gift from Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Remember; the knowledge of salvation by grace, here, is the revealing of our eternal salvation.

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This

is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Peter reminds us: We, the apostles of Jesus Christ:

- Have been eyewitness of the things which we preach to you.
- Know the bible teaches the truth of Jesus Christ, because Jesus revealed it to us, through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- Saw Jesus Christ glorified and approved of God the Father on the mount
- Saw Jesus resurrected from the dead
- Saw him ascend back to the eternal heaven from whence he came, therefore, we know that as he is, so shall we be, as seen in: ***1Jo 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.***

Glory and praise to God for this blessed hope and belief in our salvation by grace. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Praise God for "***Like Precious Faith!***"

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