

☞ Precious Faith

2 Peter 1:1-4

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: **2** Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. **3** His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Faith – it's a gift from God. Romans 12:3... each one has a measure of faith given by God. ☞ **Faith** is something we receive as a gift from God, but then it **can be applied and multiplied** to become even stronger.

☞ **It's the same kind of faith the original disciples had.** They experienced the presence and power of God in phenomenal ways and they had great faith. But here, Peter says that our faith is "as precious as" theirs. It has equal value. It's the same faith they were given! ☞ I'd say that makes it pretty precious. **They grew in their faith** and **so can we.**

☞ Faith is Established in a Person - Our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The wording is important here. In the original language the grammar is such that this whole phrase is describing one person. We believe in the Holy Trinity and this verse is one of the reasons why. Jesus is God in the flesh; The God-Man. We don't fully understand it, but it is clearly mentioned in the bible.

Jesus, himself, claimed to be God: In John 8:58 he said, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!"

Jesus is worshiped: The bible says in several places to worship and serve God only. Angels and apostles refused to be worshiped, but Jesus accepts worship. (Matthew 2:11, 14:33, 28:9; Luke 24:52; John 9:38)

He is described here in v. 1 as righteous. In fact, our righteousness is in him: 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Righteousness is found in Christ, and if we are in Christ, we become righteous.

☞ **Righteousness is a by-product of Relationship.** Want to live right? Know him more.

v. 2 Grace and peace come through the knowledge of God. Contrast "the" knowledge of God here with verse 3, "our" knowledge of God. It's his knowledge that gives us grace

and peace. He is all-knowing. Yes, we find peace when we know God, but we can continue in and experience abundant peace when we trust his knowledge.

Isaiah 55:9

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct* your paths. NKJV

☞ **If you want** true, lasting, **abundant peace, trust that God knows best.** Trust his knowledge.

Faith is Established in a Person – Jesus Christ. There are some people that I have great faith in; if they say they will do something, I am very confident and don't have to worry whether they will follow through. The Lord Jesus is way more trustworthy than anyone else. Put your faith in him.

☞ **Faith is Escorted with Power** - v. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need...

Here is the “dynamite” power of God again.

☞ **His power is more than enough for everything we need.** Last week we talked about how he gives us strength to do whatever he asks us to do. It is God's miraculous power and ability that enables us. It is not just a little; not barely enough; God's strength is explosively powerful. It's more than enough!

☞ **His power gives us life.** The fact that you are a living, breathing human being is reliant upon his power: Genesis 2:7 says, “the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

Jesus wants us to experience life to the hilt: In John 10:10 he said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” His power enables that kind of living.

☞ **His power enables godliness.** Godliness is holy and right behavior and attitudes. Godliness doesn't happen by trying harder. It happens through his power. And his power comes through our knowledge of him. We need to know him more.

We want more power; more peace; more prosperity... So often we are willing to try almost anything to get those things. We will try to follow someone's plan or we will try to make our own way. We will try knowing ourselves better. You want power for an abundant life? You want power for godly living? Then get to know Jesus more and more.

☞ **His power comes as we know him more and more.**

Ephesians 1:17-19

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better... in order that you may know the hope ...the inheritance ...and his incomparably great power for us

Colossians 1:9-11

we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. **10** And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power...

His divine power supplies everything we need. And his power is applied as we know him more and more. Knowledge here is more than just having information; it includes being in a very close relationship with someone. He supplies the power; we tap into it by getting to know him more.

Even in the natural, we trust reliable people. The better we know someone and see that they are reliable, the more we trust them.

I remember watching a father play with his little boy, repeatedly throwing him in the air and catching him just before he hit the ground. The child was relaxed and having a great time saying, "Do it again! Do it again!" I thought, "If that was me, I'd be stiff as a board." "Can you explain why he's so relaxed, even when he's out of control?" I asked the father. "It's very simple," he said. "We have a history together. We've played this game before, and I've never dropped him."

--Tim Hansel... One day, while my son Zac and I were out in the country, climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, "Hey Dad! Catch me!" I turned around to see Zac joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled "Hey Dad!" I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment after I caught him I could hardly talk. When I found my voice again I gasped in exasperation: "Zac! Can you give me one good reason why you did that???" He responded with remarkable calmness: "Sure...because you're my Dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the hilt because I could be trusted. Isn't this even more true for a Christian?

Faith is Escorted with Power. The more we personally know the Lord, the more we can apply his power to our lives.

☞ **Faith is Enhanced with Promises** - v. 4 his very great and precious promises...

These come through his glory and goodness. In other words, God is so good that he can't help but give us fantastic promises.

☞ **God promises Peace**

John 14:27 says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."

☞ **God promises Provision**

Philippians 4:19... And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

☞ **God promises Power**

Philippians 4:13... I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

☞ **God promises Plans**

Psalms 32:8... I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

☞ **God promises Prizes**

Romans 8:16-17... The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ

And God keeps his promises! 2 Corinthians 1:20 says, "no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ."

Standing on the Promises (verse 2)
*Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.*

Faith is enhanced with promises. Read the Word, find God's promises and hold tight because God always comes through.

☞ **Faith is Expressed with Participation** - v. 4 ...participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world.

--*The Bible Exposition Commentary...* When the sinner believes on Jesus Christ, **the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to impart the life and nature of God within**. A baby shares the nature of its parents, and a person born of God shares the divine nature of God. The lost sinner is decaying because of his corrupt nature, but the Christian can experience a dynamic life of godliness because he has God's divine nature within.

Each one of us is given a measure of faith. And when you put that faith in Jesus Christ, trusting him to be your Savior and Lord, something new is born within you.

2 Corinthians 5:17

if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

That newness is the life of Christ, his divine nature born in you. The more we walk with Christ, the more we become like him. It says here, that this participation comes through ☞ his divine promises. In other words, **his promises inspire our participation in his plan.** When we really stand on his promises, knowing that he will come through, then we resist the ways of the world and follow Christ wholeheartedly and ultimately become more like him.

This is part of our vision... to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). The more we know him on a personal level and the more we stand firmly, believing his promises, the more we can become like him and partner with him as he works in this world. True faith participates in God's plans.

We have a precious faith. It's based on the person of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. This faith comes with power and promises that are phenomenal. And ultimately, this faith allows us to participate with God in his works.

If you have been born again, you have already been given faith. But, you can't function in it if you don't have knowledge of the laws that govern it. The laws of aerodynamics have been in existence since creation, but mankind didn't have knowledge of them until recently. Many people scoffed at the idea of flying, just as many people ridicule the faith message today. They used to say, "If God meant for man to fly, He would have given man wings." We've seen that assumption proven false. It wasn't God who was keeping us from flying, it was our ignorance of the laws that govern flight. And our abilities have grown phenomenally as we have learned more about how flight works. It hasn't been God who failed to give us faith, we have all been given the measure of faith and we can live a life of faith. And you will grow in your faith as you know him more.

Mankind didn't learn how to fly overnight. There have been many failures, but now no one doubts that the laws of aerodynamics work. You may not be walking fully in faith yet, ☞ but you can grow in it. You have a measure of **faith that can be applied and multiplied** in your life. **Faith grows as we know him more.** The knowledge of God and how faith works is hidden for you, not from you, in the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

☞ Study his word to get to know him more. Study his word to build your faith in his promises. Partner with God and grow in this precious faith.