

## Women's Bible Study

### 2Peter 1:1-3

1Peter was written to encourage the believers to stand firm through persecution. 2Peter reminds those believers to continue to pursue their faith and to be aware of false teaching which might draw them away from the truth. This is Peter's last epistle before his death. The Apostle begins this letter with a greeting and reminder of their salvation in Christ.

2Peter 1:1-3 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 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.

How does the author describe himself?

A **bond-servant** – a slave; in this case a voluntary position of subjection. Notice the word voluntary. We are not forced to follow Jesus. God's grace allows us to understand our need for His forgiveness and guidance. Our love for Him compels us to serve Him and live for Him, to place ourselves willingly at His feet for His purpose. This is only possible because of His love for us. You are employed in your Master's work, a servant of Jesus your Lord.

1John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),

And **apostle** – a delegate; special, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ; a messenger, *'he that is sent'*. Peter appeals to his audience with the authority of an apostle yet he humbly includes himself as having the same faith which leads him to live for God's glory, to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel, to be set apart as holy unto the Lord. Each of us has the same faith even though we may be at a different point in our growth; no one is greater than another – we are all striving for the same future, having been forgiven through Christ's death, living for Jesus our Savior.

**The object of our faith is Christ,  
the result of our faith is justification,  
the working of our faith grows our sanctification,  
the purpose of our faith is God's glory.**

Remember, the Apostle's encouragement to all Believers in 1Peter using the example of Moses' exhortation to the Jews:

1Peter 2:9-10 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Think! What does it mean for you to be a follower of Christ? What does calling yourself a Christian look like in your life?

Philippians 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Who is Peter writing to?

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours – those who have *received*, not by works but by God's grace; those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, those who share a mutual faith, who believe in the same precious truths. The words '*as ours*' is the inclusion of all those who are Christians. The KJV reads, *to them that have obtained like precious faith*, meaning a faith which is valuable, of great price, purchased by Jesus' death and resurrection. Each true believer in Christ enjoys the same promises.

Romans 1:12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

How is this faith received?

By the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the foundation of our faith, the solid ground on which we stand. Jesus our Savior, His righteousness the only key to Heaven, His strength which protects us and guides us, His promise to conform us to His holiness.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Romans 3:21-26 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Notice this first sentence of Peter's salutation. **What information has he laid as the foundation of his letter?**

Verse 2 looks to the result of those who believe in the Gospel.

**Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;** Grace is God's divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life, including gratitude; peace is the quietness and rest in the heart of a believer through all circumstances. *"... the faith of the poorest believer is as precious as the richest, and that the weakest believer has the same precious faith with the strongest: and if it be alike precious, it shall be alike permanent and persevering",* William Burkitt New Testament.

As our discernment and understanding of God increases, our gratitude for His promises increase, we have peace with God, and His peace permeates our heart in all circumstances. Grace frees us from God's wrath and grants us God's favor. The **knowledge** of God means *full or additional knowledge*, implying we are to be seeking to grow in our knowledge of God. This was important for those who were attacked for their faith so that they would not succumb to lies presented to them.

**Think!** How can we defend truth and guard against heresy if we are not standing firm in our faith?

2Peter 3:17-18 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

How does God's grace and peace manifest itself in all your concerns?

*Spurgeon's Devotional Commentary* gives this insight, "Grace comes to us through the understanding; we grow in the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, and so obtain more grace: hence the importance of earnest thought, and diligent study of the Scriptures".

2Peter 1:3 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.

Recognize this continued list of encouragement! You have the power of God, who will provide all you need live for His glory, we should expect His continued work in our life! Consider what God has already done for you, consider His perfect faithfulness. Will He not continue to complete His work in your life?

Ephesians 1:5-6 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

1Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Thessalonians 4:7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

2Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Ephesians 1:18-21 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.