

Woman's Bible Study
2Peter 1:4
February 14, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

2Peter 1:2-4 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. **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.**

For by these ... Look back to verse three which speaks of the blessings given in Christ to those called by God's own glory and excellence. Peter goes on to explain these things "*pertaining to life and godliness*". *For by these or by His glory and virtue* we have been granted His promises. Only through the true knowledge of God are we able to claim His promises.

He has granted to us ... to bestow gratuitously – our faith is received only through God's grace. The righteousness imparted to us through Jesus and the blessings received are a gift.

What does it mean to receive a gift from someone?

Read the words of God written through the Prophet Ezekiel to the Israelites; God is the one who will change a heart and cause a desire to turn towards His righteousness.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ***I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.***

When we walk worthy, when we make decisions which honor God, when we are strong in the midst of difficulty – it is because God is at work in our lives causing us grow in our understanding of His commands.

His precious and magnificent promises ... *exceeding great precious valuable promises.* Consider, you have been delivered from the corruption of this world to an eternal hope of glory. God has promised to supply His

strength and His comfort, His power, and His blessings through all circumstances. These promises cannot be obtained through work of our own, they are only received by His grace and mercy.

How do you define God's grace and mercy?

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and ***you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

John 14:1-3 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for ***I go to prepare a place for you.*** "If I go and prepare a place for you, ***I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.***

"Precious promises are the object of precious faith. ... The promises themselves are a gift: for God's promises are as sure as if they were fulfilled".
Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary.

How are you encouraged by God's promises?

Remember the description Peter used of the Gentiles before God graciously saved them.

1Peter 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

This description may not necessarily be an accurate description of your life before you were saved by God's grace, yet each of us is guilty of sin and in need of a Savior. If we are not in Christ we are in the world, succumbing to the power of sin's control. Our need for redemption is a matter of life and death. ***Do we have a right understanding of our sin?*** Read Paul's words to the church in Ephesus.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

God has graciously bestowed on His children His promises of forgiveness and adoption.

So that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature ... Partakers means a sharer, an associate, companion, fellowship, partner. God's precious and magnificent promises will one day restore our likeness to God in the image which we were created before the fall. *"The object of all God's promises and dispensations was to bring fallen man back to the image of God, which he had lost"*, Adam Clarke's Commentary.

2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ephesians 4:24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Think! – all knowledge comes from God; all wisdom and righteousness is from God, given by Him and for Him as He continues to draw us to Himself and change us to the image of His Son. One day we will be in His presence, rid of our sinful human nature, holy and pure before His throne; a partaker of His holiness. The Gospel – faith through grace in Christ – deems us worthy of fellowship with God. *Philip Doddridge New Testament Commentary* puts it this way, we will be *"transformed into the image of God's moral perfections"*.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—

1Peter 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a *partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,*

Having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Without God's work in a heart this is our sentence, an appetite for the world and its pleasures, steeped in lies and sin which never fully satisfy. Without Christ we are controlled by sin, we live for sin, sin is our master.

Galatians 6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Job 4:8 "According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble harvest it.

1John 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Without Christ we are doomed. Look around you, people are frantic to find their own piece of happiness or success (which they believe will lead to fulfillment). It's never enough and does not last. Many are caught up in this never-ending cycle searching for worth and peace in a world which can never offer what they seek. The promises of God will outlast any moments of euphoria in this world. Without Christ there truly is no 'light at the end of the tunnel', only darkness and despair.

Look back at 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.

What does it mean to live in the power of His promises?

This is God's miraculous power in the life of a Believer; His strength and work specially bestowed on those who trust in Him to accomplish His plans for His glory.

How is this seen in your life?

How does God's work in you affect your responses to difficulty?