

PRECIOUS FAITH AND GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES 2 Peter 1:1-4

Intro: The believer has faith that is precious as well as great and precious promises. We need faith in the precious promises for the day in which we live. The hour that we live in is much like the time in which the early church lived. The book of Second Peter is a book we need to study. It is a book that deals with so much of what is going on all around us. As we dig into Second Peter, we will once again see that the Bible is never out of date; it never grows old; and the precious promises are rock solid to stand on.

A knowledge of the promises of God will help you through the storms of life.

I. Vs. 1 LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

A. The writer of this Epistle is Simon Peter, one the Apostles of Jesus, one of the ones He called out on the seashores of Galilee.

1. Simon, a form of the name Samuel, means: "God has heard." This is the name his parents gave him at birth.
2. Peter, this is the name that Christ gave to him when He called him; and it means rock. In the Aramaic, his name is Cephas.

B. Peter sees and calls himself "a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ."

1. Servant— this comes from the Greek word *doulos* which means a bond slave, one bound to another as a slave. To Peter, this term that most associate with humiliation, he saw as a badge of honor. Other great men of the Bible took the position as a servant, a slave to God. These include: Moses, the lawgiver; Joshua, the commander; David, the king; Paul, the Apostle; and Jude.
 - a. *Doulos* means one born as a slave. Sinners are born slaves to sin at the physical birth. By the new birth, sinners are born again into a loving, willing, and glad servitude to Jesus Christ.
 - b. *Doulos* means to be possessed inalienably by the Master. We are forever possessed by our Master Jesus Christ.
 - c. *Doulos* means to be completely swallowed up in the

will of another. Before salvation, the sinner's will is swallowed up by the will of the Devil. After salvation, the believer's will is swallowed up in God's will. He is at His disposal to do God's will not his own.

- d. *Doulos* means to be constantly in the service of God. "In the ancient world the slave had literally no time of his own, no holidays, no leisure. All his time belonged to the Master. The Christian cannot mentalize life into the time and activities which belong to God, and the time and activities in which he does what he likes" (Barclay 293). All of our time belongs to God.
- C. "Like precious Faith with us." Peter writes to a people who have been given faith like his own in honor and privilege. His emphasis here is on the fact that Jews and Gentiles have the same standing when it comes to faith given. Those who were alienated are now brought near by the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 2:11-13). Those who were not a people are now a people (1 Peter 2:10).
- 1. Thomas Adams said: "Faith is God's gift; no man can obtain it, if He detain it" (14). It is the work of Christ that saves us from sin, but we must have faith to believe the Gospel. It is by God's grace that we are not sent to hell (Eph. 2:8-9).
 - a. Christ saves us, not works of righteousness (Titus 3:5).
 - b. Christ saves us, not baptism or communion (Acts 2:41).
- D. "Like precious faith" is faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. It is "like precious faith because all who believe are saved the same way, through the same blood and the same resurrection."
 - a. We are not saved by creeds or keeping rules; we are saved by faith in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- E. "The righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Here we have a full testimony that Christ is God. We rest our salvation on the righteousness of God. Because of the believers faith in Christ, he is made righteous in the sight of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

1. Righteousness cannot be earned; it must be obtained as is faith, as a gift from God. "God tells me that here is the way to get rid of sin and its guilt and power: here is a new nature and a new life and positive righteousness" (Lloyd-Jones 9).
2. If you think that your righteousness will get you into heaven, be reminded of the words of Isaiah 64:6. "We are all as an unclean thing, and all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

II. Vs. 2 GRACE AND PEACE

A. Peter's desire for these early Christians was an abundance of grace and peace.

1. Grace always comes before peace in the New Testament for there is no peace unless you have first experienced the unmerited favor of God.
2. Peace— peace with God Romans 5:1. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." This will bring about the peace of God in your life (Phil. 4:7).
3. Grace and peace are multiplied as believers have a closer, more personal, and intimate relationship with Christ Jesus. To have this closer walk, we must gain a greater knowledge of the Savior; this is what Peter urges us to do throughout Second Peter (1:3,8; 2:20; 3:18).

III. Vss. 3-4 GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES

A. Vs.3, God has given to the believer the power to overcome, the power to be victorious and fruitful. The Greek word for "power" that is used here is *dunamis*. We get the word dynamite from this word. Sin cannot defeat us when we are empowered by God. You can claim and have the abundant life; you can live godly because of the divine power of God within you as a believer.

1. "Life" is the Greek *Zoe* and speaks of vitality, animation, and absolute fullness of life (John 10:10). The dynamic

power of God changes the inner man; and as a result, the entire behavior of the individual is changed.

2. "Godliness" is respect towards God, His commandments, and His will. It is obeying Him and living for Him daily in a godly fashion.
 3. "Through the knowledge of him"— Everything that you need to truly enjoy life is found in Christ. So many people are miserable and tormented because they refuse to get close to the Lord. They refuse to read His Word and follow His directions.
 4. "Called us to glory and virtue"— He first called us to salvation (Rom. 1:7).
 - a. He called us to share in His eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10).
 - b. We are called to virtue: to live morally virtuous lives, and to "show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9b).
 - c. "In our character and conduct, we should reveal the beauty of grace today" (Wiersbe 12).
- B. Vs. 4, What a blessing it is to have all the promises of God recorded in His precious, inspired, inerrant, preserved Word.
1. Precious promises:
 - a. Rest for the weary- Matt. 11:28
 - b. Peace for those who lean on Him- Isa 26:3
 - c. Deliverance to the shackled
 - d. Forgiveness to the guilty
 - e. Security for the insecure and hundreds of other promises.
 2. "Partakers of the divine nature"— At salvation, the life and nature of God is imparted to the believer. The Apostle Paul says in Colossians 3:10: "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."
 - a. The new nature gives us a new appetite because nature determines appetite. True believers do not want the slop and vomit of the world. True believers want the green pastures of holiness and truth.
 - b. The new nature gives us new behavior. Birds fly

- and fish swim because that is their nature. Christians pray, read the Word, and worship because it is their nature to do so.
- c. Nature determines association. There are places that others may go, but I cannot. There things that others do, but I cannot. There are things that others say, but I cannot.
3. “Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
 - a. “Escape” means to flee from. The Christian has run away from the corruption that is in the world. We ran to Jesus and have escaped.
 - b. Romans 13:14 admonishes us to: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

Conclusion: Through like precious faith, God has given to us all we need to live Godly.

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2 January 2010