

(1) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

(3) His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

(5) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brother affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(9) For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Think on these things:

- 1) What does Peter say is possible because of your faith in v.1? How is this possible? Do you feel as acceptable to Jesus as any one of His apostles?

- 2) What has God's divine power granted to everyone one of us? _____

- 3) Because we know Him, what kind of life have we been called to (v.3)? _____

- 4) Why have we been given so many wonderful, precious promises from Jesus (v.4)? See Galatians 2:20.

- 5) Why is there corruption in our world (v.4)? Consider whether or not you have escaped from it.

- 6) According to v.5, should we just live by our faith? _____

7) Faith is actually supposed to be active! Let's explore what Peter says should be added to it. Add your own definition to these terms:

➤ Virtue _____

➤ Knowledge _____

➤ Self-control _____

➤ Steadfastness _____

➤ Godliness _____

➤ Brotherly Affection _____

➤ Love _____

8) According to v.8, what does Peter say will keep us from being ineffective or unfruitful as Christians?

9) How does Peter refer to us if we don't add to our faith (v.9)?

10) Peter says we should diligently (i.e., don't quit doing this) focus on confirming God's calling to us and choosing us. How does he say we can "never fall" as Christians (v.10)? (Hint: It involves the adjectives in Q7 above.) Isn't it wonderful to know it's possible to never fall as a Christian?! See John 10:28-29.

11) If we are living like this, what is promised to us (v.11)? _____

A parallel passage to this is Galatians 5:22-25. Christian "agape" love is the primary characteristic asked of all Christians, and faith (belief) in Jesus is the key to eternal life. Passages like 2 Peter 1, Galatians 5, Romans 12, and 1 Corinthians 12 reveal to us how we ought to be living and "growing" as Christian men and women for the rest of our earthly lives "to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29).

People and situations I want to pray for this week: