

(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?

Believers may obtain a faith standing equal to that of the Apostles. Jesus knows our true level of faith, and He grants us His righteousness to stand before God. We should not be held back by doubt (“I could never have Paul’s faith...”), but “feeling as acceptable” is a personal matter.

- 2) What has God’s divine power granted to everyone one of us? **Jesus gives us everything (all things) that we need for eternal life and godliness (God-likeness).**

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

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

God wants us to accept and embrace His promises so that we can receive His divine nature and live by it in the here-and-now, demonstrating to all that we have been delivered from corrupted living due to our sinful natures. Galatians adds that we must crucify ourselves --- as Jesus was crucified --- so that Jesus can live through us now by faith.

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

Worldly corruption is the result of people pursuing their own selfish desires. Personal....

- 6) According to v. 5, should we just live by our faith? **No. We are to take steps to add to 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 **Something like goodness. Being kind and good to others as Christ's ambassador.**
- Knowledge **This encompasses both scriptural learning, and "knowing" Jesus intimately.**
- Self-control **Knowing --- and doing --- the right thing involves choice. Self-control involves good yes/no responses to myself and my desires in the context of God's righteousness.**
- Steadfastness **Being faithful and reliable, but more; not quitting under trial and duress.**
- Godliness **Reflecting Jesus in my behaviors and attitude. What would Jesus do (WWJD)?**
- Brotherly Affection **Being a member of a Christian church. Learning to love all believers in an agape way (selflessly) by overcoming personal differences and committing to unity.**
- Love **Putting others first, especially fellow Christians. Becoming a 'humble' servant to all.**

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

We must exhibit these 7 faith-development qualities above, reflecting them better over time.

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

Peter says that refusing to grow by adding to our faith indicates we have forgotten what God cleansed us from when He saved us. He describes us as being so nearsighted as to be blind.

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.

Obediently developing these 7 qualities above (Q7) is a godly pathway that prevents us from falling away. John states that NOBODY can snatch us away from God if we truly belong to Him.

11) If we are living like this, what is promised to us (v. 11)? **We are promised a rich (rewarding?) entrance into Jesus' eternal kingdom.**

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: