

Conformed Into The Image of HIS SON

2 Peter 1:1-11

Notes by Franklin

2 Peter 1:1 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**

- We RECEIVED or OBTAINED FAITH. It came to us, was Given as a Gift.
- Romans 12:3 GOD has allotted **to each a measure of faith.**
- Hebrews 12:2 . . . **JESUS, the AUTHOR and PERFECTER of faith**
- 1 Corinthians 4:7 **what do you have that you did not receive?**
(more verses declaring Faith is a Gift is at the end of this study)
- What kind of FAITH? **the same kind as ours** -> Precious and of the same Value and authority as Peter's and the other apostles.
- Why or on What basis was it Given to us? **Totally by Grace** and not by any work or effort from us but totally **BY the Righteousness** and Blood **of our GOD and Savior, JESUS CHRIST.**

Vs.2 Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the ⁽¹⁾ **KNOWLEDGE** of GOD and of JESUS our LORD

- As our **Knowledge of GOD** and our LORD JESUS increases and grows, **Grace** and **Peace multiplies.** To Grow and Mature -> It's up to YOU to
- Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God as a **workman** who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately** analyzing The **Word of TRUTH** 2 Tim 2:15

Vs.3 seeing that **HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN to us EVERYTHING** pertaining to **LIFE** and **GODLINESS, THROUGH** the true ⁽²⁾ **KNOWLEDGE** of **HIM who called us** by HIS own glory and excellence.

- Wonderful, Awesome. But how do we obtain EVERYTHING ? ? ?
- **EVERYTHING** Pertaining to **life & Godliness** comes through the **channel** of our **TRUE KNOWLEDGE of HIM.**

- This WONDERFUL, GLORIOUS **GIFT** of **LIFE & GODLINESS** **has been GIVEN TO US**. And we will DISCOVER, LIVE and ENJOY it all, as we **GROW** in our **KNOWLEDGE of HIM**.

As with any gift, **first**, you must know that a gift has been given to you. And **second**, to use and enjoy it you MUST open the package and put it to work.

- **GIVEN to us EVERYTHING** -> **Even FAITH**. That is GRACE maxed out
Ephesians 2:8 For by **GRACE** YOU HAVE BEEN **SAVED** through **FAITH**; and that (refers to faith) **not of yourselves, it is the GIFT of GOD**.

Vs.4 For by these (HIS glory and excellence) **HE has GIVEN TO US** HIS **precious** and **magnificent PROMISES**, (Why?) so that **by them YOU MAY become partakers** of the **DIVINE NATURE**, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world by lust.

- Only by HIS **precious** and **magnificent PROMISES** can we **become partakers** of the **DIVINE NATURE** and **escape** the corruption
- This is HIS Goal. And should be ours. -> "As it was in the beginning"
- The Greatest and Most Needed **Promise**, Acts 1:4-8: He commanded them to wait for what the FATHER had **PROMISED** (5) you **will be** baptized in the **HOLY SPIRIT . . .** (8) and **you WILL** receive **POWER** when the **HOLY SPIRIT comes UPON YOU**; and **you shall** be My witnesses
- Ephesians 3:16-17 He has granted you, according to the **riches of HIS Glory**, to be **strengthened with POWER** through **HIS SPIRIT** in the inner man, **so that CHRIST** (**HIS DIVINE NATURE**) **may dwell in your HEARTS**
- And only by The **POWER** of The **HOLY SPIRIT** will we be **strengthened** and able to overcome and **escape the corruption that is in the world by lust** and be **filled** with the **DIVINE NATURE** COMPLETELY and EXCLUSIVELY.
- Romans 8:29 For **those** whom He foreknew, HE also **PREDESTINED to be CONFORMED** to the **image of HIS SON**. **filled** with the **DIVINE NATURE** . . . the easy way -> by obedience. or the hard way -> by discipline.

- Colossians 1:9-12 we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you **may be filled with the KNOWLEDGE** of **HIS will** in all **spiritual wisdom** and understanding, **so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the LORD**, to **please HIM** in all respects (How?) (1) **bearing fruit** in every good work and (2) **increasing in the KNOWLEDGE of God** (by which we will be) strengthened with **all power**, according to **HIS glorious might**, for (3) the attaining of all **steadfastness** and (4) **patience** (5) **joyously** giving thanks to the FATHER, who **has QUALIFIED US** to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

WONDERFUL !

HE HAS GIVEN to us EVERYTHING pertaining to **LIFE and GODLINESS**

We have NO EXCUSE.

See to it that **no one comes short of the Grace of GOD**; Hebrews 12:15

How far short do we fall ?

Vs.5 Now for **this very reason** (to escape the corruption in the world by lust) **also, applying ALL DILIGENCE** (steady, earnest energetic effort) in **your faith ADD MORAL EXCELLENCE**, and in your moral excellence, (3) **KNOWLEDGE**.

- **YOU CAN** do **all things** through **HIM** who **strengthens YOU**. Philip. 4:13
- Philippians 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always **OBEYED** . . . **WORK OUT your salvation** (our responsibility) with fear and trembling; for it is **GOD who is at work in you**, both **to WILL** and to **WORK** for HIS good pleasure. Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that **HE** who began a good work in you **will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.
- HE NEVER GIVES UP working in HIS Children's lives to **CONFORM** us to the **image of HIS SON** walking in **MORAL EXCELLENCE**

Vs.5 continued: . . . and in your moral excellence, (2) **KNOWLEDGE**.

- Because: the people who **KNOW their GOD** will display **STRENGTH** and **TAKE ACTION**. Daniel 11:32 . . . And Walk in **MORAL EXCELLENCE**

Vs.6 and in your knowledge, **SELF-CONTROL**, and in your self-control, **PERSEVERANCE**, and in your perseverance, **GODLINESS**, 7 and in your godliness, **brotherly KINDNESS**, and in your brotherly kindness, **LOVE**.

(1) and in your knowledge, **SELF-CONTROL**

- Satan can easily tempt you because of **lack of SELF-CONTROL**. (1 Cor.7:5) and when he does is when our **knowledge of GOD becomes extremely important** and we respond to him as JESUS did when HE was tempted: **Be gone satan, for it is written . . .** Matthew 4:10 **We MUST KNOW THE WORD**.
- Satan works hard to gain a TOE-HOLD and then a FOOT-HOLD and then a STRONGHOLD with our Anger / Lust / addictions which give **him CONTROL**.

But KNOW This:

1 Cor. 10:13 No **temptation** has overtaken you but such as is common to man but **GOD is FAITHFUL** who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will provide the way of escape** also, that you may be able to **ENDURE IT**.

- **SELF-CONTROL** is a fruit of The SPIRIT Gal. 5:23 A good measure of the amount of The HOLY SPIRIT's leadership in our life is how much **Self-Control** we have.
- **But realize this**, that in the last days **difficult times will come** for men will be **without SELF-CONTROL** . . . holding to a form of **godliness** or **religion** although they have **denied its power**. The HOLY SPIRIT 2 Tim 3:1-5

(2) Therefore: in your SELF-CONTROL supply **PERSEVERANCE**

- Because **PERSEVERANCE** is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY to ever gain SELF-CONTROL. **IT DOES NOT COME EASY** and to **escape the corruption** that is in the world by **lust**, **SELF-CONTROL** is THE FIRST and MOST IMPORTANT Spiritual Warfare Battle we **MUST FIGHT**. Warfare IS TOUGH, BRUTAL.
- Because: as Paul said: **SIN** dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the **willing is present in me, BUT THE DOING** of the good **IS NOT**. I find then the principle that **EVIL IS PRESENT IN ME**, the one who wants to do good. Romans 7:17-21

With **SIN** and **EVIL** in us, the “evil one” has **an opportunity**. Eph.4:27

The more SIN we yield to and allow the more EVIL we allow.

So, how do we fight this battle and overcome?

- Galatians 5:17 Amplified: For the desires (or lusts) of the flesh are **opposed** to the SPIRIT, and the desires of the SPIRIT are **opposed** to the flesh; for these are **antagonistic** to each other, continually **fighting** each other, so that **you ARE NOT FREE to do what you desire to do**.

Example: an evil dog and a good dog fighting. Whichever one you feed gets stronger and whichever one you starve grows weaker. Fasting helps starve the evil one and strengthen the good one.

- Everyone** who competes in the games exercises **SELF-CONTROL** in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable. **I DISCIPLINE MY BODY and make it my SLAVE.**
1 Cor 9:25-27
- Is my body my slave ?? Or, am I my bodies slave ??
- What we are involved in IS NOT A GAME. It is SERIOUS **WARFARE !** Your enemy comes to **kill, steal and destroy**.
- JESUS commended the Church at Ephesus: **You have persevered and have endured hardships** for MY NAME and have not grown weary. Revelation 2:3
- James tells us: 1:2-4 **Count it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**, (Hurt feelings / someone does you wrong) knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces **ENDURANCE**. And let endurance have its perfect result (through Obedience) so that you may be **PERFECT** and **complete, LACKING NOTHING**.

Count it all joy. JESUS did.

- Hebrews 12:2-3 . . . fixing our eyes on JESUS, the author and perfecter of faith, who **for the JOY set before Him ENDURED the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **CONSIDER HIM** who has **ENDURED** such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that . . . YOU WILL NOT GROW WEARY AND LOSE HEART.**

Like Israel in the wilderness – mumber & complain through their trials & sufferings – and around the mountain they would have to go again. Then into their PROMISED land –> “We Can’t win that battle.” That generation never enjoyed or experienced all of their Promises.

- **And Paul tells us:** Romans 5:3-5 We **REJOICE** in our **SUFFERINGS**, because we know that **suffering produces PERSEVERANCE**; and perseverance proven **CHARACTER**. 2Pet.1:4 so that you **MAY become partakers** of the **DIVINE NATURE**, (HIS CHARACTER) having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
- John 16:33 In the world **YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION** but take courage; I have overcome the world.
- **Peter tells us:** 1 Peter 2:21-24 For you have been **called** for this **purpose**, since JESUS **SUFFERED FOR YOU**, leaving **YOU an example** for you to **follow in HIS steps**, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while **SUFFERING**, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting HIMSELF to HIM who judges righteously.
- Hebrews 5:8 Although HE was a SON, **HE LEARNED OBEDIENCE** from the things which HE **SUFFERED**. . . . rejection, humiliation, pain, beating, crucifixion, and through it all HE committed no sin.

There was no deceit or dishonesty in HIM. HE only spoke the Truth. while being called names, liar, insulted, He did not revile or insult in return Throughout HIS life and on the Cross while **SUFFERING** He spoke no threats but kept entrusting Himself to HIM who judges righteously.

- This is The **DIVINE NATURE**.
- 2 Cor 4:17-18 This momentary, light **affliction** (of suffering) **is producing for us an eternal weight of Glory** far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

(3) and in your perseverance, GODLINESS

- (vs.4) **HE has GIVEN** to us His PRECIOUS and MAGNIFICENT **PROMISES**, (Why?) so that **by them** you **MAY become partakers** of the **DIVINE NATURE**.
- And: (vs.3) Seeing that **HIS divine power HAS GIVEN to us EVERYTHING** pertaining to **life** and **GODLINESS**, (**you have the DIVINE NATURE in you**) we should (vs.5) **apply ALL DILIGENCE to SUPPLY MORAL EXCELLENCE**.
- HE has **PREDESTINED** us to be **CONFORMED** to the **image of HIS SON Godliness!**
- Therefore, having these **PROMISES**, let us **CLEANSE OURSELVES** from all defilement of flesh and spirit, **PERFECTING HOLINESS** in the fear of God.
2Cor.7:1
- The BIG QUESTION is **HOW** do we **SUPPLY MORAL EXCELLENCE???**
- How do we **PERFECT HOLINESS ???**

Step Number 1 To Walk in the DIVINE NATURE that is IN US and SUPPLY MORAL EXCELLENCE **Romans 6:6** Gives us a good answer:

KNOWING THIS, that **our old self WAS CRUCIFIED with HIM**, in order that **our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.**

In the eyes of The LORD - Our old self is dead. We were Crucified with HIM

- Galatians 2:20 **I was crucified with CHRIST**; and it is no longer I who live, but **CHRIST (HIS DIVINE NATURE) lives in me** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **FAITH** in the SON of GOD, who loves me and **gave Himself up for me.**
- Matthew 16:24 **If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must DENY HIMSELF, and take up his cross and follow Me.**
- **Romans 6:4** Therefore **we have been buried with Him** through baptism into death, so that as CHRIST was **raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, so **WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE**. THIS IS THE GOAL

Step Number 2 Romans 6:11 Even so **CONSIDER yourselves to be DEAD to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

- **CONSIDER** -> The Greek word is in the imperative mood = **Do It !** Count on it! Conclude it so! Believe it ! **Make Reality Real in your life!**
- The Result: Vs.12 Therefore **DO NOT let sin reign in your mortal body** so that you obey its lusts, 13 and **DO NOT GO ON PRESENTING THE MEMBERS OF YOUR BODY TO SIN AS INSTRUMENTS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS;**
- Whatever you are doing that you know is not right or good -> **STOP IT** by The POWER of The HOLY SPIRIT and Replace it with **HIS DIVINE NATURE.**
- Philippians 4:13 **YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS** through **HIM** who **strengthens you.** Whose **DIVINE NATURE** is IN YOU.

Step Number 3 Romans 6:13 **PRESENT YOURSELVES TO GOD** as those **alive from the dead,** and your members as **instruments of RIGHTEOUSNESS** to GOD.
14 For sin **shall not** be master over you

- Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, HOLY,** acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- Every morning when your eyes open say:
"I Give my body to You LORD as a living sacrifice full of Your **DIVINE NATURE** and **MORAL EXCELLENCE.** Have Your way . . . Your Kingdom come, Your WILL BE DONE." Why is this important ? ?
- Romans 6:16 **KNOWING** that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, **you are slaves of the one whom you OBEY, either of SIN** (giving the evil one an opportunity to trouble you. Eph.4:27) or of **OBEEDIENCE resulting in righteousness** of HIS **DIVINE NATURE** and all the Blessings of HIS **PRECIOUS** and **MAGNIFICENT PROMISES.**

(4) and in your Godliness, Brotherly **KINDNESS**

- To the degree that The **DIVINE NATURE** and **MORAL EXCELLENCE** is paramount in you, **KINDNESS will abound and overflow.**
- Romans 2:4 **the KINDNESS of GOD leads to repentance** = to turn around and go in a new direction.
- Galatians 5:22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, KINDNESS**
- Colossians 3:12 **So, as those who have been CHOSEN OF GOD, holy and beloved, PUT ON A HEART OF compassion, KINDNESS, humility, gentleness and patience. The DIVINE NATURE**

(5) and in your KINDNESS, LOVE The GREATEST POWER on earth **IS LOVE**

- With the **DIVINE NATURE** of GOD ALMIGHTY, **who is LOVE**, directing YOU, **LOVE WILL FLOW OUT OF YOU IN A RIVER of LIFE THAT WILL TOUCH AND CHANGE MOST EVERYONE YOU ENCOUNTER.**
- If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have **LOVE**, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have **LOVE**, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have **LOVE**, it profits me nothing. **LOVE** is patient, **LOVE** is kind and is not jealous; **LOVE** does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **LOVE** never fails. 1 Cor 13:1-8
- 2 Peter 1:8 For if these **qualities ARE YOURS** and are **INCREASING**, they render you neither **useless** nor **unfruitful** in the **true knowledge** of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more **diligent** to make certain about HIS **calling** and **choosing** you; for as long as **YOU PRACTICE** these things, **you will never stumble**; 11 for in this way the **ENTRANCE** into the ETERNAL KINGDOM of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST will be **ABUNDANTLY SUPPLIED TO YOU.**

HE HAS GIVEN to us EVERYTHING pertaining to LIFE and GODLINESS:
 FAITH / Precious & Magnificent PROMISES / HIS DIVINE NATURE
 MORAL EXCELLENCE / KNOWLEDGE / SELF-CONTROL
 PERSEVERANCE / GODLINESS / KINDNESS & LOVE.

What More Could You Possibly Need?
 It Is Just a Matter of What You Love Most.

Now to HIM who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **power that works within us**, to HIM be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Verses Stating that Faith is a Gift from The LORD

Galatians 3:23 But **before FAITH CAME**, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to **the faith which was later to be REVEALED**. Faith came to us. It does not originate in us or from us.

Romans 12:3-4 **I say to every man among you . . . God has allotted to each a measure of faith.** He is speaking to believers. See Vs.1 **brothers**

Philippians 1:29 For **to you it HAS BEEN GRANTED** for Christ's sake, **not only to BELIEVE** in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

Acts 3:16 And on **the basis of faith in His Name**, the name of **JESUS** which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and **the faith which comes *through HIM** has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

*Greek (δι') dia (dee-ah'); a primary preposition denoting the channel of an act. Faith comes to us through Jesus. Faith begins with HIM and given to us.

1 Peter 1:21 who ***through Him are believers in God . . . so that your faith and hope are in God.** (*through or by – channel of action)

John 3:27 A man can **receive nothing** unless it has been **given him** from heaven

Ephesians 2:8 For by **GRACE** (God's free gift) you have been **saved** through **faith**; **and that not of yourselves**, it is **the gift** of God

- making it clear that **salvation is NOT of ourselves**. Therefore **faith cannot be "of ourselves"** since salvation comes by or through faith. Otherwise salvation would depend upon us.
- And to clarify this, the Holy Spirit added "**and that not of yourselves**" clearly referring **to the noun that precedes it, "faith,"** which also **is not** of ourselves but "**the gift of God.**"

Romans 4:16-17 For this reason it is **by faith, in order that** it may be **in accordance with grace** [if faith originates within us then it is not according to grace -> a free gift] so that **the promise will be guaranteed** to all the **descendants** (literally: seeds. We are "of" that chosen lineage) **not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**

Acts 16:14-15 A woman named Lydia . . . a worshiper of God, was listening; and **The LORD opened her heart** to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; **for not all have faith.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13 . . . God has **chosen you** from the beginning **for salvation through** (two things) (1) **sanctification by the Spirit and** (2) **faith** in the truth.

- Sanctification is by the Spirit. The word "and" connects sanctification and faith together with the meaning that **faith is also by the Spirit and not originating from man.**

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God **choose** the poor of this world **to be rich in faith** and heirs of the kingdom

1 Corinthians 1:30 But **by HIS DOING you are in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption