

Everything We Need

II Peter 1:2-9

5/13/07

Intro

As we come to the second letter of the Apostle Peter to the churches in Asia Minor, we see a change in the theme. In Peter's first letter he wrote to encourage them to keep their hope strong in times of trouble that would come.

Here Peter teaches us to grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ because it will have everything to do with how we live our lives.

Here we receive specific direction in regards to how our lives are changed. We begin our Christian walk as babies in Christ and have a great need to grow in spiritual maturity, so Peter write to give us the insights and instruction we need to grow our lives spiritually so that we are more like Christ.

Even the name "Christian" is relevant because it means, "little Christ." We are to grow up in all aspects into Christ and Peter gives the insight we need to do that.

These are insights and principles we need in order to live and grow in our walk with Christ.

I. We Have Everything for Life and Godliness

- God has supplied all that we need to live a powerful and victorious life.
- We need to learn to rely on God's supply so that we see the life and godliness God desires.

A. By divine power

- God has not just given us a set of rules and commanded us to live them; He provides the power we need so that we can do what He asks us to do.

Illus – I remember Pastor Chuck Smith telling us about a discussion that he had with some of the leaders in China. They had asked him how Christianity was different from other religions, "God gives His Holy Spirit so that His people are changed by His power not their own," he said.

Philippians 4:12-13, I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

- The key is in understanding that it is not by my supply of strength, but by His that I have what I need.

Illus – One of the best examples of this truth is the famous missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, who discovered what he called a great spiritual secret; that the God of all power resides in us and that He will supply all that is needed to accomplish what He desires.

- Paul wrote something very similar when he wrote...

Philippians 4:19, And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

B. Through knowledge of His Word

- As our knowledge of His Word increases, our faith also increases. – “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
- Jesus also taught that if we abide in God’s Word, we shall be free...

John 8:31-33, So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “f you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

- Therefore, not knowing God’s Word is very limiting to our faith and very limiting to our “life and godliness,” as Peter tells us.

Illus – When I was first learning how to use a computer I was so limited by my lack of knowledge. I remember those revelations that people would share with me about how to *cut and paste*. “Wow, I didn’t know it could do that,” I said a lot.

- Jesus also taught on the issue of no knowing the scriptures...

Matthew 22:29, Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.” NIV

- When we read God’s Word, we are reading a letter to us and we are therefore getting to know the person who wrote the letter.

- “Through the true knowledge of Him,” Peter wrote. We are not just learning facts, we are knowing Him! That is God’s provision for life and godliness.

II. **Believe God’s Precious Promises**

- This is another provision of God in giving us everything we need for life and godliness.
- “Precious” isn’t a word we would normally expect from the old salty fisherman, Peter, but it means *valuable, treasured, costly* – they were indeed very costly promises. “We have been redeemed by the *precious blood of Christ.*” I Pet 1:19

Illus – Aren’t you glad that there are no recalls on God’s promises. They are based on the solid rock – Christ.

A. And become partakers of God’s nature

- When we believe God’s precious promises and begin to apply them to our lives, we are changed. We are “sharers” or partakers of His nature. (The word is ‘koinonia’ in the Greek.)
- This does not mean that we are in any sense God, but it does mean that we can become “godly.”

II Corinthians 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.

- Paul tells us that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind...

Romans 12:2, And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

- What kind of nature we have determines many things about how we live our lives.
- The nature of something determines its appetite and its behavior.

Illus – our dog Theo eats the same food, Purina “Beneful” with ‘whole chunks of real beef’ every day – and likes it. He does dog things because he’s a dog. If I did those things...

- If we have a spiritual nature, we desire spiritual things and will have spiritual behaviors as a result.
- It comes from “koinonia,” or fellowship, with God. When we have a close relationship with someone we share their attributes...

App – If we fellowship with world, we will become like the world...

B. And escape the world’s corruption

- God has given everything we need for life and godliness so that we should escape the corruption of the world.
- “Corruption” means decay – perishing.

Illus – In the same way that meat becomes rotten because it has no life in it, the soul can become corrupted – and will stink terribly.

The prayers of the saints are compared to sweet incense before the Lord, which is exactly the opposite.

Ephesians 4:22-24, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

<p>III. Become Spiritually Fruitful and Useful</p>

- Vs 8 – Peter gives a list of godly attributes and says that if we have these qualities, we are not useless or unfruitful.
- We often see the word “fruit” used to describe the life of faith. That is because fruit is so amazingly good. Notice He doesn’t refer to godly ‘vegetables.’

A. Seek these godly qualities

- This is our part. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness, but we do have a part.
 - God gave us precious and magnificent promises – we supply diligence in faith.
 - God gave us His Word – We supply hearing.
 - God gave us spiritual food – we supply eating.
 - God gave us Living Water – we supply drinking.

- God gave us the Holy Spirit so we can have self control; controlling the desires, passions and emotions that are within our human nature.

Illus – “That’s just the way I am,” I’ve often heard people say. This is just a way of saying, “I refuse to change.”

- But He has given everything we need for life and godliness.

Matthew 6:33, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

B. Remember who you are in Christ

- Vs 9 – the one who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.
- The word ‘short-sighted’ is from the same word from which we get ‘myopic.’ This is a condition in which a person can only see things right in front of them, they can’t see anything see beyond the immediate.
- Someone spiritually “short-sighted” is someone who only sees the immediate problem or need and can’t see the bigger picture spiritually.

Illus – Jesus described a man who had been forgiven much, but would not forgive a little.

Matthew 18:23-35 The man who was short-sighted.

- We must remember who we are in Christ and all we have received in regards to the forgiveness of

our sins and the precious and magnificent promises.

- To quote a 16th century English proverb, “There are none so blind as those who refuse to see.”
- Remember who you are and what you have in Christ and you will see with eyes of faith all that God has in store for those who love.

I Corinthians 2:7-10 Seeing the promises of God