

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

2 Peter 1:1–4

Second Peter was written to Christians whose faith was being threatened by the heresies of false teachers. Read the epistle to see how Peter addresses this vital issue.

Read 2 Peter 1:1–4.

1. After Peter identifies himself to his readers, he uses two titles to describe who he is.
 - a. What does the title “servant” of Jesus Christ tell Peter's readers about how he sees himself? (Jn. 13:1–5, 12–16)
 - b. The title “apostle” gives Peter’s message authority and credibility. In light of the situation Peter is addressing, why is this important?
2. Why does Peter describe the faith he shares with his readers as “precious”? (1 Pet. 1:7, 18–21)

How do we receive this precious faith? (v. 1; Eph. 2:8–9)

3. In what ways does God demonstrate his righteousness (v. 1) when he brings us to faith? (Titus 3:3–7)
4. What is the experience of God’s peace and grace dependent upon? (v. 2)
5. In our Christian lives knowing about God and knowing God personally are both vital, but they are not the same.
 - a. What steps can you take to know about God? (2 Tim. 3:14–17)
 - b. What steps can you take to know God personally? (Ps. 46:10; Eph. 1:17; Phil. 1:9, 3:8)

6. Verse 3 makes an amazing promise.
 - a. Rewrite the promise in your own words.
 - b. God's divine power lies behind this promise. What difference does this make?
 - c. Choose one area in your life that is difficult. How would reliance on this promise affect how you handle this problem?
7. How do believers access the power of God to live godly lives? (v. 3)
8. How have we come to receive God's promises? (vv. 3b–4a)
9. Verse 4 says God has freely given us "his very great and precious promises." What promises have you believed that have made a difference in your life?
10. As a result of believing in God's promises, we participate in the divine nature. This does not mean believers are "absorbed into deity nor do they become divine."¹ So, what does it mean? (Rom. 8:9–17, 29; 2 Cor. 3:17–18)
11. Another result of believing God's promises is that we "escape the corruption that is in the world caused by evil desires" (v. 4). How are we able to do this? (v. 3; Rom. 6:11–14; 1 Cor. 10:13; Titus 2:11–14)
12. Think of a situation in which you have trouble resisting your evil desires. Write an escape plan. What truths from this lesson will you tell yourself? What will you do?