

Exceedingly GREAT Promises



13 July 2025

2 Peter 1:3-4

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Romans 8:28-39

Lies Believed to Be True

- Lie #4: It does not matter that people have different beliefs as long as they believe in Jesus.

A Letter to Saints!

- Author: Peter
 - Eyewitness of the transformation, life, miracles, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - A “slave” of Christ. He follows in the footsteps of His Master! (Philippians 2:5-7; Matthew 20:28)
 - ★ Salvation always leads to servanthood.
 - An “apostle” – one sent and commissioned by a higher authority with the same authority as the one who sends! (Luke 10:16)
 - A “sinner” like us! One who has grown in his faith!
 - Serving the Lord up to the day that he dies! (Psalm 71:18)
- Addressees:
 - Those who had “obtained the same precious faith” (saving faith) as Peter.
 - Pilgrims, elect, sanctified, sprinkled, secured in Christ for obedience. (1 Peter 1:1-3)
- Purpose:
 - ① To warn against false teachers. (2 Peter 2:1-2)
 - ② To encourage (exhort) these saints to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Equipping Us for Servanthood (v. 3)

- (v. 3) **HIS DIVINE POWER – not OURS!**
 - (Ephesians 3:14-21) “according to that power that works in us”!
 - ✗ Contrast this with Ephesians 2:1-3.
 - (Philippians 2:12-13) It is GOD working in us for His good pleasure!
 - (2 Corinthians 3:5) Our sufficiency is in God, NOT us!
 - (Acts 17:25, 28) “IN Him we live and move and have our being!”

- (1 Corinthians 15:10) "I am who I am by the grace (power) of God!" It is HIS power that works in me! (See Ephesians 3:7)
- All we have has been "given to us" – 1 Corinthians 4:7.
- (v. 3) "granted" is δωρέω (doreo) is in the PERFECT TENSE describing an ACTION performed in the PAST with CONTINUING EFFECTS.
- (v. 3) **EVERYTHING** that we need for life **and** godliness!
 - We are in NEED of nothing! We already have all we need!
 - There is NO NEED for "second blessings"!
 - Since we have ALL that we NEED God holds us accountable to live as His children here on earth! (1 John 3:1-10)
 - Christians have the power to say, "NO", to every temptation that comes their way! (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - "Godliness" – the fear, reverence, and love of God demonstrated in obedience to His commandments. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:1-3; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; 13:4; Micah 6:8; Psalm 119:2, 4, 5, 8, 17, 33, 34, 44, 55, 57, 60, 63, 67, 69, 88, 100, 101, etc.)
 - We have already been given (all by grace) all that is needed for our complete salvation!
 - ★ We were given NEW LIFE - after being "dead in our sins"! (Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:11)
 - ★ We were given NEW HEARTS with the Law of God written on them. (Deut 30:6; Ezekiel 36:26; Jeremiah 31:33; 32:39; Hebrews 8:10)
 - ★ We were given the Holy Spirit to cause us to walk in God's ways, judgments, and commandments. (Ezekiel 36:27; Romans 5:5; 1 Cor 3:16; 12:7; 2 Cor 5:5; 6:16; Eph 1:13-14)
 - ★ We have given faith as a gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - ★ We were given a reserved inheritance in heaven. (1 Peter 1:4)
 - ★ We were justified freely by His grace. (Rom 3:24-26; 5:1; 8:1)
 - ★ We were given power over sin. (Romans 6:14, 18)
 - ★ We were given Christ's righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10)
 - ★ We were given the Word of God. (John 17:8, 14; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 15:4)
 - ★ We were given PRAYER; the privilege of communicating with the Most High God. (Matthew 6:9-13)
 - ★ We were given WISDOM and UNDERSTANDING. (James 1:5; 1 John 5:20)
 - ★ We were given HOPE. (Romans 8:24-25; 15:4, 13; 1 Cor 3:12; Eph 4:4; Col 1:5, 23; Titus 2:13; 3:7; Heb 3:6; 6:11, 19; 7:19; 10:23)
 - ★ We were given the ARMOR of God. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 - ★ We were given "WEAPONS" to be "more than conquerors" in this evil world. (1 Peter 4:1; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Romans 8:37)
 - ★ We were given **THE CHURCH** to grow with. (Ephesians 4:16)

- ★ We were given **CHRIST HIMSELF**. (John 15:1-8; 17:22-23, 26; Colossians 1:27; 3:11; John 14:17, 20, 23; Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; 4:19; Ephesians 3:17; 1 John 4:4)
- ★ We were given **GOD HIMSELF**. (Genesis 15:1; Proverbs 16:5-6; 73:25-26; 119:57; Lamentation 3:24)
 - We have the promise of what **HE** started **HE** will finish! (Philip 1:6) HE began a good work and HE will work until it is done!
 - ★ That work is “conforming” us into the image of His Son! (Romans 8:29)
- (v. 4) This “**EVERYTHING**” that we already have comes to us “through the knowledge of Him (GOD)”.
 - ★ “Theology” – the study of GOD!
 - ★ At REBIRTH we all become **theologians** - (John 17:3) - “this is eternal life that they may know . . .” Disciples study God’s revelation of Himself.
 - ★ We are *theologians* until the day we die. There is no study more rewarding than theology! YET, many find it boring!
 - ★ “knowledge” is revealed to us! God’s Word is His revelation of who He is! Therefore theologians study God’s Word about Him in order to KNOW Him! Paul prayed for the saints in Ephesus that God would continually give them the knowledge of Him. Remember the pastor’s promise: Colossians 1:9-11.
 - ★ ONE CANNOT KNOW GOD WITHOUT BEING A STUDENT OF GOD’S WORD! *Those who are not students of God’s Word only have opinions about God – not truth about God! Opinions of God a blasphemous! God IS Who He says He is!*
 - ✗ Consider carefully: 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9!

GOD Called Us! (v. 3)

- Golden Chain of Grace (Romans 8:28-30)



- God’s Call is **IRRESISTIBLE** (John 11:43; Romans 8:30) and **IRREVOCABLE** (Romans 11:29)
- God’s call reveals to sinners Christ’s glory (John 17:5, 22, 24) and virtue (excellence) (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:21-23; 1 John 3:5).

Exceedingly Great Promises (v. 4)

- “by these” – the “glory and excellence” of Christ. (v. 3)
- “granted” – δωρέω (doreo) – same verb in v. 3 and still in the PERFECT TENSE!

- “exceedingly great” - “greatest”; “magnificent”
- “precious” – valuable; costly
- “promises” – self-commitments; commitments made by God Himself. (Rom 4:20-21; Titus 1:2)
- “might be” – This is not to be interpreted as something possible or something to happen in the future. The verb is built on everything Peter has already wrote about salvation – God’s calling; Christ’s glory and virtue; being equipped with everything we need for life and godliness; the precious and exceedingly great promises ALL lead to us being . . .
- “partakers of the divine nature” – “partaker” is *κοινωνός* (koinonos) - meaning “sharer”; “fellowship in”; “partner”.
- (2 Corinthians 5:17) ALL those who are IN CHRIST are NEW CREATURES!
- Nature determines: Those who have the DIVINE NATURE . . .
 - ❶ **APPETITE**. . . “hunger after righteousness” and **feed** on God’s Word and His will. (Matt 5:6; 4:4; Heb 5:14; John 4:34; Matthew 7:21-23)
 - ❷ **BEHAVIOUR**. . . “practice righteousness (the righteousness of God)”. (1 John 2:29; 3:6-10)
 - ❸ **ENVIRONMENT**. . . have been “delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of His Son.” (Colossians 1:13)
 - ❹ **ASSOCIATION**. . . associate with LIKE KIND – 2 Cor 6:14-18; 1 Cor 15:33; James 4:4; 1 Peter 2:9) **Remember Psalm 119:63**. Consider Psalm 1:1.
- Partakers of the Divine Nature DO NOT partake in “the corruption (decomposing, rotting with its stench) that is in the world through lust” – see 1 Peter 2:11; Ephesians 2:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
- Those with the DIVINE NATURE “have escaped” – something already done!

Therefore, Having All These Promises (2 Corinthians 7:1)

- ① “Let us cleanse ourselves . . .” - PRESENT, ACTIVE, IMPERATIVE.
 - “from **all** filthiness of flesh and spirit” - INSIDE and OUTSIDE!!
 - “**perfecting holiness**” in the fear of God - NOT partial but complete holiness. (1 Peter 1:13-16; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Thess 4:7; Romans 6:19)
- ② God has equipped us (His children) with **everything** we need to live a godly life, therefore we are without excuse. We must use the means that God has given us and exercise ourselves in godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 2:12; Hebrews 5:14) “In Christ I can do all things.” (Philippians 4:13)
- ③ We must walk “worthy of our calling”. (Ephesians 4:1, 17-20; Philippians 1:27; 1 Thess 2:11-12; 2 Thess 1:11; Colossians 1:10)
- ④ Since we have these “exceedingly great and precious promises” – (2 Cor 7:1; 1 John 3:1-3)
- ⑤ We must live as “pilgrims and strangers” in this world, having escaped its corruptions. (2 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11)
- ⑥ God always does what He promises – He cannot lie. (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2)