

ADD to Your FAITH

2 Peter 1:5-9

Ephesians 1:1-14

Philippians 3:12-21



Lies Believed to Be Truth

- LIE #5 - It is not necessary to know God as He has revealed Himself in the **written** Word. Understanding God according to my tradition/opinion is sufficient.

Author (2 Peter 1:1)

- Slave and Apostle of Jesus Christ.
- His word has **EQUAL** authority to Christ's Word. To reject Peter's word is to reject Christ and GOD Himself. (Luke 10:16)

Addressees (2 Peter 1:2)

- Those who "obtained precious faith" by divine appointment.
- Those who were "appointed to eternal life" (Acts 13:38).
- (1 Peter 1:1-2) Pilgrims (Hebrews 11:13); Elect (Ephesians 1:4); sanctified by the Spirit (2 Thess 2:13-14); sprinkled with the blood of Christ (Heb 9:12); secure in the everlasting covenant! (Heb 13:20)

EVERYTHING NEEDED! (2 Peter 1:3-4)

- We have been **granted** (PERFECT TENSE) **everything** we need for this life and godliness.
- We have been **granted** (PERFECT TENSE) **exceedingly great promises** from God Himself.
- We are **partakers** of the **divine nature**!

ALL Blessings (Ephesians 1:3)

- Paul tells us that God has "blessed us with **every** spiritual blessing **in Christ**! He lists those blessing in verse 4-14!
 - ① God chose us! (v. 4)
 - ② God predestined us to adoption into His family. (vv. 5, 11)
 - ③ God has accepted us! (v. 5)
 - ④ God has redeemed us! (v. 7)

- ⑤ God has forgiven our sins. (v. 7)
- ⑥ God has poured His grace upon us. (vv. 7-8)
- ⑦ God has reserved an inheritance. (v. 11)
- ⑧ God sealed us with His guarantee His Holy Spirit. (vv. 13-14)
- All this “according to the good pleasure of **His** will” (v. 5); “to the praise of the glory of **His** grace” (v. 6); “according to the riches of **His** grace” (v. 7); “according to His good pleasure” (v. 9); “which He purposed in **Himself**” (v. 9); “according to the purpose of **Him** . . . who works all things according to the counsel of **His** will” (v. 11); “to the praise of **His** glory” (v. 12); “to the praise of **His** glory” (v. 14)

Having Escaped the Pollution of the World (2 Peter 1:4)

- Saints are no longer “citizens” of **this** world; their citizenship is, already, in heaven. (Philippians 3:20-21)
- Saints declare that they are “strangers and pilgrims on the earth”. (Hebrews 11:13-16; Colossians 1:13; John 17:14-16)
- This world, sin, and Satan no longer have **dominion** (rule) over us! We are “in Christ”! (Rom 6:13-14; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Acts 26:18)
- Since we are no longer “of this world” we live differently from those who are still “of the world”. (1 John 3:6-10)

“For This Very Reason” (v. 5)

- ONLY **after** Peter (really the Holy Spirit) has laid out **ALL** that God has done for us does he now delivers to us **imperatives** or **commands**.
- A saint's **joyful obedience** is always in response to all that God has done for the saint! Our obedience is our response to God's grace, mercy, and love! (John 14:15, 21, 23,24; 15:10; 1 John 5:1-3)
- (Romans 12:1-2) - In view of all of God's mercies (Romans 1-11) “PRESENT your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is **reasonable** service. And be not **conformed** to this world but be **transformed**.”

“Giving ALL Diligence” (v. 5)

- “diligence” - σπουδῇν – “earnestness in accomplishing”; “striving after anything”; “interest one's self most earnestly”.
- “all” - πᾶς (pas) - (NIV, ESV, HCSB, NET, NLT - “make every **effort**”); (KJV, NKJV - “giving all diligence”); (NASB - “applying all diligence”)
- (Philippians 2:12-13) “WORK out your salvation with fear and trembling.”
 - (John 6:27) - “Do not **labor** for the food which perishes, but **labor** for the food which endures to everlasting life . . .”
 - (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) **RUN** the race to win it!
 - (1 Corinthians 15:58) “**THEREFORE**, . . . always abounding in the **work** of the Lord, knowing that your **labor** is not in vain in the Lord.”

- “add” is ἐπιχορηγέω *epichoregeo* - “give lavishly, generously”; “supply”; “provide all that is need” (IMPERATIVE; ACTIVE)
★ The prefix *epi* “supersizes” the verb.
- ALL those who have been “born-again” **grow!** Where there is life there is growth! Where there is no growth, there is no life.

ADD to Your Faith! (2 Peter 1:5-7)

- ❶ **VIRTUE:** ἀρετή *arete* - “moral excellence”; “moral heroism”; “when something fulfills its purpose in excellence”; “righteousness” (Matthew 6:33) See Proverbs 31:10-31 - a virtuous wife. **HOW?** Fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)
 - ❷ **KNOWLEDGE:** This is knowledge of divine truth and the right use of that knowledge. (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 5:14) Peter exhorts us to “grow in knowledge” (2 Peter 3:18) See Ephesians 5:15-17. **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.** (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10) This knowledge leads to a growing intimate relationship with God - NOT RELIGION. **HOW?** Be a serious student of God’s Word. (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - ❸ **SELF-CONTROL:** “to hold oneself in”; This is living a disciplined life as a runner preparing for a race. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) (See Proverbs 16:32; 25:28) **HOW?** Don’t let the world dictate your life (Romans 12:1-2)
 - ❹ **PERSEVERANCE:** This is ὑπομονή *hupomone*. **“In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.”** Only those who persevere will be saved. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 12:1-2; 3:6, 14; 10:39; Romans 2:7) **HOW?** (Prov 4:23-26)
 - ❺ **GODLINESS:** The fear, reverence, and love of God demonstrated in obedience to His commandments. We are exhorted to “exercise ourselves in godliness”. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; see Titus 2:12) **HOW?** 1 Timothy 4:7-8
 - ❻ **BROTHERLY KINDNESS:** This is obeying the second great commandment, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Matthew 22:35-40) This is also the love of our enemies! (Luke 6:35) See 1 Peter 1:22; Hebrews 13:1; Romans 12:10) **HOW? DO IT!**
 - ❼ **LOVE:** This is love for the brethren. He who does not love his brother is still in darkness – NOT SAVED. (1 John 2:9-10; 3:10, 14-16, 17; 4:20-21) By this virtue the world will know that we are the disciples of Christ. (John 13:34-35) **HOW?** Lay down your life for your brethren! (1 John 3:16)
- God has equipped us with EVERYTHING we need to do what He commands! (2 Peter 1:3-4; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 2:13; Romans 5:5)
- God has predestined ALL His elect to do these things and grow in sanctification! (Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6)

PURSUE the VIRTUES of GOD

- “pursue” is διώκω *dioko* - “to run swiftly in order to catch something”; “to press

- on as in a race” (Philippians 3:12-14).
- The opposite of “pursue” is to “flee from”.
- Throughout the New Testament we are to **pursue**:
 - (Romans 14:19) **PEACE** with each other. (Psalm 34:14)
 - (Romans 14:19) **EDIFICATION** of each other. (Romans 15:2; 1 Cor 14:12-26)
 - (1 Corinthians 14:1) **LOVE** for each other.
 - (1 Thessalonians 5:15) What is **GOOD** for others.
 - (1 Timothy 6:11) **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. (Matthew 6:33)
 - (1 Timothy 6:11) **GODLINESS**. (1 Timothy 4:7-8)
 - (1 Timothy 6:11) **FAITH**. (Hebrews 11:6)
 - (1 Timothy 6:11) **PATIENCE** (ὀπομονή, endurance).
 - (1 Timothy 6:11) **GENTLENESS**.
 - (Matthew 5:48) **PERFECTION**. (Philippians 3:12-14)
 - (Hebrews 12:14) **HOLINESS** without which **NO ONE** will see God.
- One’s progress in maturing as a Christian ought to be **evident** to ALL. (1 Timothy 4:16)

Useful and Fruitful (2 Peter 1:8-9)

- (John 15:8) God is glorified when we “bear **much** fruit”, showing ourselves to be true disciples of Christ.
- A Christian is “virtuous” (excellent); fulfilling his purpose when he/she glorifies God in all that he/she does! (1 Corinthians 10:31; 6:19-20; Philippians 1:11)
- ONLY when these virtues are **abounding in us and increasing** can we be useful and fruitful – “virtuous”!
- Christians **grow** spiritually when they **pursue** these virtues!
- Even true Christians **backslide** and become unfruitful and useless to God! Peter warns us in verse 9, that in our unfruitfulness, idleness, uselessness we become “short-sighted (self-centered), blinded, and have **forgotten** that his/her sins were **purged** by God”.

What Must We Learn & DO

- ① We must “meditate on God’s Word day and night” to remember all that God has done for us and in response become **FRUITFUL**. (Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:5-8; John 15:1-8)
- ② We must **grow** as “children of God” by using the means that God has given us - His Word, prayer, His Church. (2 Pete 3:17-18; 1:5-8)
- ③ We must **work** out **our** salvation, knowing that it is God working in us for His pleasure. (Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; Romans 8:29)

Either we are **ABUNDANTLY ADDING** to our faith and **ACTIVELY PURSUING** the virtues of God or we are not! If we are not we are being disobedient - sinning. This is a serious command from God.