

^{1:1} Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

Introduction

Peter's second letter is written with a sense of urgency since he is convinced that his death is imminent (1:13-15). He emphasizes the key points of certainty in Christ's return amidst doubt and denial from "false teachers". To those deceivers, he has serious words of impending judgment (2:1-22). Ultimately, Peter reveals his letters' purpose in 3:1: "to stimulate you to wholesome thinking". In short God's holy people should *be holy* and look forward to the day where God's holiness comes to purify and bring salvation.

Understand it.

- Who is Peter's audience? How is faith "precious"?
- How does Peter use the following words in verses 3-4 and why are they significant?
 - *power*
 - *promises*
 - *called*
 - *participate*
- In verse 5, Peter exhorts believers to "add to" their godly qualities. How does someone do this? I.e. How can someone become more faithful, good, knowledgeable, self-controlled, persevering, godly, affectionate, loving?
 - How does this list compare to Paul's list of "fruit" in Galatians 5:22-23? Why are they so similar?
 - How might our focused attention on these areas help someone who is struggling with doubt or sin? What is the danger of being "ineffective and unproductive"?
- What does Peter wish to remind the believers and why are they important? (v.12-15)

Apply it.

- V. 10 says that we are to "make every effort to confirm your calling and election" and by doing this, we "will never stumble" and we will "receive a rich welcome" in Christ's kingdom.
 - What are some ways you have pursued godly living and multiplied your faith?
 - Conversely, what is one area you could pursue holiness that might help you stand firm in your faith?