

2 Peter 1:1-21 **Partakers of the Divine Nature- Spiritual Growth**

Greeting the Faithful – Great and Precious Promises

¹ Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Choices required for Growth in the Faith

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peter's Approaching Death

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Eyewitnesses of Christ's divine Glory (Matt 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:34-35)

¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

¹⁷ For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word

¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

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Facts Revealed:

Greeting the Faithful – Great and Precious Promises [2 Peter 1:1-4]

- ✚ Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ. [2 Peter 1:1]
 - ✧ In his first epistle, Peter identified himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ and wrote it to the believers who had been scattered to Asia Minor.
 - ✧ In his second epistle, Peter identified himself as a bondservant and Apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - ✧ This letter is sent to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
 - ✧ Both letters have broad appeal to believers everywhere both Jew and Gentile.
- ✚ Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. [2 Peter 1:2]
 - ✧ Knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord is the basis of our perception of both grace and peace in a world of trials and testings.
 - ✧ It is this knowledge that produces the like precious faith that is imputed to us as righteousness of God in Christ. [Philippians 1:11, 3:8-9, Galatians 3:21-25, 5:5]
 - ✧ All things that pertain to life and godliness are given to us by His divine power in the Holy Spirit who reveals the things of Jesus pertaining to our Salvation and called us to glory and virtue. [2 Peter 1:3, John 15:26, 16:12-15, 1 Peter 3:8-12, Romans 1:7]
 - ✧ Through knowledge of Him, we have been given exceedingly great and precious promises.
 - ✧ These great promises have taught us that we may be partakers of the divine nature.
 - ✧ Through His promises we have escaped the corruption of the world caused by our lusts and cleansed by His blood through faith. [2 Peter 1:4, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 5:26, Hebrews 9:14, 1 John 1:7, 9]

Choices required for Growth in the Faith [2 Peter 1:5-11]

- ✚ Christian growth toward maturity requires determined personal choice and resolute action.
 - ✧ Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. [2 Peter 1:5-7]
 - ✧ These are all things a believer must set as priorities and goals in his life.
 - ✧ Christian growth is a process of character development that results from diligent focus on godliness.
 - ✧ Love demanded by Christ, is the ultimate expression of a believer's standing in the body of Christ and reflects his commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. [Matthew 5:43-48, 19:19, 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31, Luke 6:27-36, 10:25-28, John 13:34-35, 14:15, 19-24, 15:12-17, Romans 12:9-10, 13:8-10, 1 Corinthians 16:14, Galatians 5:13-14, 22, Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-16, 5:1-2, Colossians 3:14, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 4:9-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:5, 1 Timothy 1:5, James 2:8, 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8, 2 Peter 1:5-7, 1 John 2:10, 3:11, 14, 18, 4:7-11, 20-21, 2 John 1:5]
 - ✧ Having these qualities, a believer will be fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [2 Peter 1:8, Colossians 1:9-12, John 15:8]
 - ✧ He who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. [2 Peter 1:9]
 - ✧ If we diligently strive to build these qualities in our lives we will make our call and election sure. [2 Peter 1:10]
 - ✧ Building up these qualities will keep you from stumbling. [2 Peter 1:10]
 - ✧ These things will assure you a place in the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [2 Peter 1:11]
 - ✧ Peter thus demonstrates that it is possible for believer to stumble and fall, which will challenge his right to the everlasting Kingdom of Christ.
 - ✧ If these qualities are missing, we are in danger.

Peter's Approaching Death [2 Peter 1:12-15]

- ‡ Jesus showed Peter the approaching time of his death.
 - ✧ Peter saw the need before his death to remind the Saints of the great and precious promises we have in Jesus and the need to apply maximum effort to develop their Christian character.
 - ✧ By writing the letter Peter desires to ensure that the believers always have a reminder of these things after his death.

Eyewitnesses of Christ's divine Glory [2 Peter 1:16-18]

- ‡ For **we** did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**
 - ✧ Peter assures the reader that the testimony is true and not some cunningly devised fables.
 - ✧ **Peter was with those who were eyewitnesses of the majesty of Jesus which they saw on the mount of transfiguration as Christ was glorified before their eyes.**
 - ✧ **They heard the testimony from God the Father** when God said of Jesus:
 - "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" [Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35]
 - ✧ Peter's testimony is:
 - "**We heard** this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain." [2 Peter 1:18]

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word [2 Peter 1:19-21]

- ‡ No prophecy of Scripture originated from private interpretation of the writer by their own will or imagination, it is not of human origin.
- ‡ Scriptural prophecy originated by the will of God when holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - ✧ Prophecy, being of divine origin, is confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
 - ✧ You may be confident of the truth in prophecy of Scripture, knowing the source is divine and given by the Holy Spirit.