

## 1: Power and Promises (2 Peter 1:2-4)

Second Peter 1:1b-2 says, "I am writing to all of you who share the same precious faith we have, faith given to us by Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, who makes us right with God. May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our Lord, better and better."

As Christians, it is easy to see where we need to be in our walk, but oftentimes it is difficult to know how to get there. We are told that it is by faith we receive, so why do we doubt the Lord's transforming power in our lives? (Galatians 3:14). Isn't it *He* that has provided the groundwork for our faith?

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Do you distrust Him to complete the work He has started? Do you ever find yourself trying to obtain His "*special favor and wonderful peace*" through your efforts? Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.

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As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, we understand that it is only by His power that we are able to "put on" Christian character. But this is not to say we have no part in attaining a Christ-like nature. We must continually grow in the knowledge of Christ, "*measuring up to the full stature of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:13). What is required of you in order to grow in the Lord?

- Ephesians 4:21-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Deuteronomy 11:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 3:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 9:23 \_\_\_\_\_

### His Divine Power

Second Peter 1:3 says, "As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness!"

Read Galatians 5:16-23. Do you believe that every one of these characteristics is within you?

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Read Colossians 2:10. Some of these traits may be apparent in your life, while you may struggle with others. Is it possible to exhibit

the kind of life Christ displayed? How does your sin nature play into this? Read Romans 6:1-23.

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Our lives must be lived in His power and not our own. Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 and Ephesians 3:14-19.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are given "*mighty inner strength*" to accomplish God's work within us. Sanctification is a process. *He supplies, but we have to apply.* It is through obedience that we demonstrate the glory and goodness we have already received.

Are there areas in your life that you have not surrendered, suppressing His manifestation?

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### Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises

Second Peter 1:4 says, "*And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.*"

What foundational promises has God given us through Christ?

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How do these promises enable us to do the following:

1. "*Escape the decadence all around [us] caused by evil desires.*"

Read Romans 8:1-17. If God's nature is within us, we have no obligation to do what our sinful nature urges us to do. Why must we guard ourselves from the world?

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In Genesis 13:5-18, Abram allowed Lot to choose which area of land he wanted. Lot, a righteous man, chose the land that *appeared* to be the best. He pitched his tent towards Sodom—a city permeated with the vilest of sins. Later, in Genesis 19:1-38, Lot chose to reside in the city causing him to become exhausted from the immorality and wickedness around him (2 Peter 2:6-8).

In the end, did Lot escape the corruption around him? What costs were associated with Lot's choices? Read Luke 17:32-33.

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In contrast, Abram chose not to be conformed but to live a life set apart for the Lord. "As believers, we too can escape the same

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way Abram escaped—by deliberately choosing the path of separation from the world.”<sup>1</sup> Why is this vital to our walk?

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2. *“Share in His divine nature.”*

Abram understood that sharing in God’s divine nature meant making no provision for the flesh, but instead trusting and obeying God—even if it meant setting himself and his family apart from the world.

Romans 12:2 says, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (NKJV).

Read Philippians 2:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Ephesians 3:20 says, *“By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.”*

In closing, read Psalm 119:33-39.

Second Peter 1:5a says, *“So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life.”*

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<sup>1</sup> Phillips, John. Exploring the Epistles of Peter: An Expository Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005. 233.