

2 Peter

1) Precious Faith for Precious Promises

- ✓ **First Peter was written to encourage Christians under the threat of persecution**
- ✓ **2 Peter was written to warn those same believers of the danger of false teachers**
- ✓ **Peter knew he didn't have long to live and was concerned about false teaching creeping into the church**
- ✓ **The false teaching was the early stages of Gnosticism which taught that the body is irrelevant to God, and therefore it doesn't matter what we do in it. This led to immorality**

***'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 Pet.1:1)

**A bondservant, from the Greek word
doulos - a willing servant for life; one who
had bound himself over to his master**

**An apostle - one who is sent with a
message from the One who sent him**

- ✓ **We have received, 'like precious faith', i.e. the same faith as the apostles**
- ✓ **Faith is the God-given capacity to trust Him. It is a gift (Eph.2:8)**
- ✓ **How did we receive it? By hearing the gospel. Faith comes by hearing. To have faith, we have to have something to believe in. God gives us that in the gospel**
- ✓ **This faith is 'precious'. This word means something very valuable, beyond other things; something that is too costly to evaluate because it is greater than anything else**

- ✓ **'Precious' was a favourite word of Peter**
- ✓ **He shows us that faith is precious because it connects us with precious things**
- ✓ ***'Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion, a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious' (1 Pet.2:4-7)***

'...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot'

(1 Pet.1:18-19)

'...you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ'

(1 Pet.1:6-7)

- ✓ **We have received this precious faith *by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ*. We received this faith on the basis of God's righteousness**
- ✓ **'our God and Savior Jesus Christ'. The grammar of the Greek leaves little doubt that Peter is calling Jesus Christ both God and Saviour**
- ✓ **Peter received that revelation from the Father and through the miracles, transfiguration, resurrection, etc.**

***'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the
knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord'***

(2 Pet.1:2)

**Grace and peace were Gentile and Jewish
greetings combined**

- ✓ **Growth is natural. But we need to be planted in the right kind of soil in order to grow**
- ✓ **What conditions are most conducive to spiritual growth? Peter tell us that grace and peace are multiplied to us in the knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus**
- ✓ **Also, at the end of his epistle, he says, '*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*' (2 Pet.3:18)**
- ✓ **Epignosis = towards knowledge or full knowledge; ever moving towards it's object. It is experiential knowledge**

- ✓ **The false teachers claimed knowledge but it was not a knowledge of Him. 'They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work' (Tit.1:16)**
- ✓ **The Gnostics taught knowledge dispensed of the need for morality. Peter says that the knowledge of Him enables us to escape the corruption that is in this world through lust**
- ✓ **It is through the knowledge of *Him*. Paul didn't say 'I know *what* I have believed, but I know *Who* I have believed'**
- ✓ **False teachers are ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth**

'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'

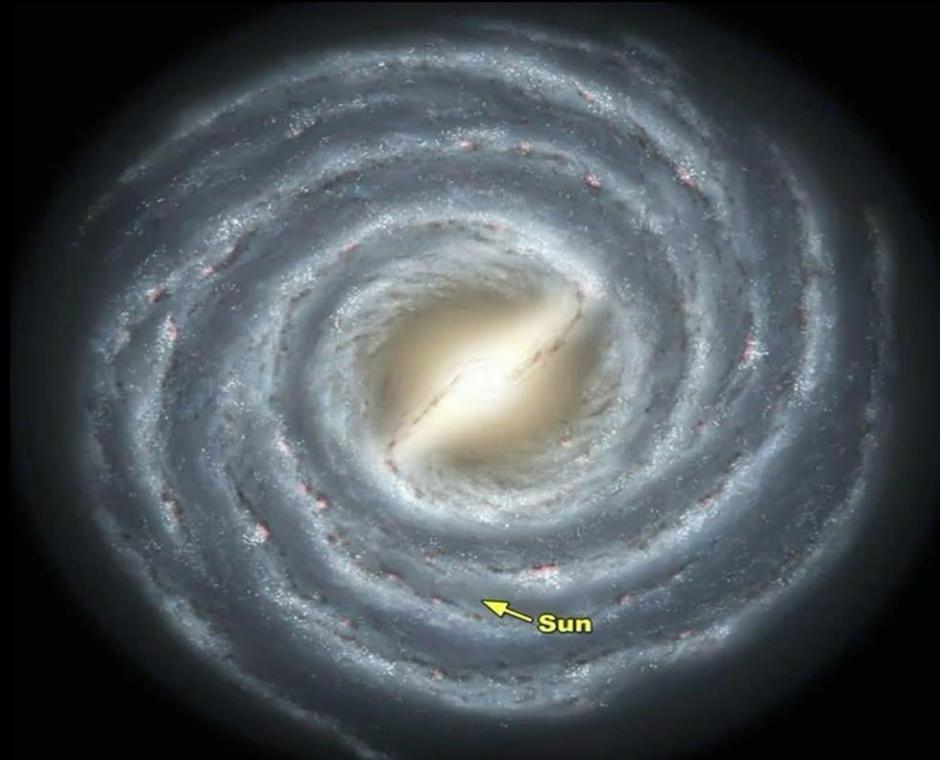
(2 Pet.1:3)

He doesn't give us all we want but all we need for life and godliness

Peter shares 4 things God has given to us

These are things which cause growth - power, life, godliness and precious promises

- ✓ **Power.** *Dunamis* = inherent power, power that overcomes resistance (dynamite)
- ✓ **The knowledge of His glory attracts us, but it is His power that sustains us**
- ✓ **Divine power, which upholds the universe, gives us everything we need for life and godliness**



EARTH IS JUST 1 OF 3.2 TRILLION PLANETS IN OUR GALAXY. THE SUN IS JUST 1 OF 200 BILLION STARS IN THE MILKY WAY. THE MILKY WAY IS JUST 1 OF THE 2 TRILLION GALAXIES IN THE OBSERVABLE UNIVERSE.

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- ✓ **Life, zoe, the quality of life as possessed by the one who gave it**
- ✓ **Adam was given God's life, but through sin lost it. He was left with an image of sin and death. Every human is a product of this life. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. Job. David**
- ✓ **Then Jesus came to give His life to us. So now there were two different kinds of man - one flesh and the other Spirit. Paul refers to Jesus as the '*second man*' (1 Cor.15:47). He is also called, '*the last Adam*' (15:45)**

- ✓ ***'The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit' (1 Cor.15:45)***
- ✓ ***That's why Jesus said, 'You must be born again'***
- ✓ ***When we receive Christ we are born again, or born from above. We receive more than forgiveness of sins, we receive life. His life!***
- ✓ ***God has made us alive together with Christ (Col.2:13)***

- ✓ **Godliness. This is a consequence of having His life. What does it take to be godly? God**
- ✓ **Godliness is the life of God in the soul of man. Godliness is God reproducing Himself in us. Since we have received God's nature, we manifest His character, *'Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures'* (James 1:18)**

- ✓ **We are being conformed more and more to the image of Christ, 'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord' (2 Cor.3:18)**
- ✓ **Jesus said, 'Give to Caesar the things which have Caesar's; but to God those things which bear His image'**
- ✓ **Peter once prayed, 'Depart from me for I am a sinful man...'** Jesus didn't depart from him. He saved him and transformed him

- ✓ **Promises.** *'...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' (2 Pet.1:4)*
- ✓ **There are two kinds of promises in the Bible – temporal and spiritual. The spiritual are exceedingly great and precious promises. They speak of eternal and spiritual riches**
- ✓ **These promises enable us to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust**
- ✓ **When you read the Bible look for the promises. Peter refers to specific promises. For example...**

The promise of righteousness:

'Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ'

(Gal.3:16)

The promise of the indwelling Spirit:

'that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith'
(Gal.3:14)

The promise of the Second Coming:

'...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"'

(2 Pet.3:3-4)

The promise of new heavens and new earth:

***'Nevertheless we, according to His promise,
look for new heavens and a new earth in which
righteousness dwells'***

(2 Pet.3:13)

In Christ every precious promise is fulfilled

***'For all the promises of God in Him are Yes,
and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through
us'***

(2 Cor.1:20)