

II PETER

Everything Necessary

October 27, 2013

- I. His Divine power has granted us everything necessary for life and godliness
 - A. II Peter 1:2-4 . . . Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; [3] seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. [4] For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
 - B. Pray

- II. Everything needed for life and godliness
 - A. Last Sunday we talked about receiving a multiplied amount of grace and peace from God for daily living. Then I added the idea that this is something we should want God to do for us. And because there is great wisdom in wanting this abundant supply of grace and peace, I encouraged you to pray for God to give you a multiplied amount of grace and peace each and every day. And I am urging you today to pray this as often as you feel it necessary.
 1. Now why should we want an abundance of grace and peace from God for daily living? Because we face many challenges as we travel the path to Christian maturity, and as we seek to be conformed to the likeness of Christ, and as we pursue being holy in all our behavior as God is holy, and as we serve God in various ways.
 2. You see, God has not called us to eternal salvation alone – as if that is the grand prize or the only prize worth gaining. God has also called us to be reconciled to Him (II Corinthians 5:18-19), to stop sinning (I John 2:1), to live a sanctified, holy life, beginning now and extending throughout eternity (I Peter 1:15-16), to be perfect just as God is perfect (Matthew 5:48), and to be salt and light in our world today (Matthew 5:16).
 3. My point here is that when we move beyond being saved from the penalty of our sin and begin to live as those who belong to God, we discover that God's expectations of us are both serious and noble. And when I say noble, I mean that God has set the standard of what we are to become, as His children, rather high. But God goes way beyond requiring a high standard of character and behavior from us, He adds

to His requirements everything we need to rise to the standard He sets for us.

4. Which brings us back to Peter's words here in verses 2-4, for it is here, at the beginning of his letter, that Peter reminds us of all that God has done and is doing to enable and assist us in becoming new creatures in Christ Jesus. And having looked last Sunday at God's provision of multiplied grace and peace for daily living, let's continue on to see what more God does to enable us to live a holy life.

B. II Peter 1:3a . . . Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness.

1. The word "seeing" is not the easiest word to translate into English, but the basic meaning of the Greek word is "since" or "just as." And the point Peter is making by using this word is that we can confidently seek a multiplied measure of grace and peace from God "since" or "because" He has granted to us everything we need for life and godliness.
 - a. The principle here is similar to the principle stated by Jesus in Matthew 6:33 . . . "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
 - b. And it is similar to what Jesus says in Luke 18:29-30 . . . "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, [30] who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life."
 - c. Paul applied this same principle when he said in Romans 8:32 . . . "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"
2. Let me give you a practical example of this principle so you can see more clearly what God is doing for us. Near the end of Israel's time in Egypt, their Lord and Master, Pharaoh, not only commanded them to do certain things, he also made them get, on their own, without any help from the Egyptians, whatever they needed to fulfill his commands.
 - a. God is not like this. Yes, He is our Lord and Master. And yes, He commands us to do certain things, and most of those things are directly related to how we live our lives today.
 - b. But the difference between God and Pharaoh at that time in Egypt is that God provides everything we need to fulfill His commands. True, it is up to us to do the work, and often it is hard, demanding,

tiring, and seemingly endless work. But God provides all the strength, wisdom, knowledge, protection from being overpowered by the evil one, and all the other materials needed to do the work He has set before us.

- c. The important truth Peter wants us to see here is that God does not send us out alone or in any way under equipped to become holy in all our behavior, just as He is holy. God commands, yes, but His commands come with all the help we need to fulfill them to the fullest.
3. The next word in this verse that I want to comment on is the word “everything.” And as you might guess, it means, everything! There is absolutely nothing we need for life and godliness that God does not provide.
 - a. Will it feel at times as if God is not providing enough? Yes, it will feel that way. In fact, it may even feel at times as if God is a long way off and you are alone. But do our feelings make it true? No.
 - b. So instead of giving way to your feelings, depend on this word “everything,” and if you still feel like you need more, talk to God about that.
 - c. It is my experience that God will answer some prayers requesting help that goes beyond Him doing His part. In other words, my experience says that God not only gives everything we need, but as our loving father who has compassion on His children, He will give even more as we call upon Him for the added help to defeat our flesh and subdue our wayward desires and thoughts and live a life pleasing to Him.
 4. The next two words that are important to consider here in verse 3 are the words “life” and “godliness.”
 - a. On the surface, they may seem to speak of the earthy and the heavenly, or the temporal and the spiritual.
 - b. However, given the Greek word that is used for life (zoe), and according to the thinking of the early church and the current commentaries, the word life does not speak of food, clothing, and shelter – though we know that God provides for us in those ways as well.
 - (1) However, in this case, the word life is used to refer to the abundant life God has for all who come to Him in repentance and faith – and this life begins when we are born again.
 - (2) Now before being born again, our condition is one of being dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). And as those

who are dead, we have no hope of coming back to life apart from some supernatural or divine help – and God is our help in being born again just as He is our help in living the Christian life once we have been reborn.

- (3) Therefore, the first thing God does for us is to bestow on us all that we need to go from the state of being spiritually and eternally dead to the state of being spiritually and eternally alive in Christ.
 - c. This brings us to the word godliness. And as we have already pointed out, God does not stop with giving us all we need to be born again. He also gives us all we need to grow to spiritual maturity and holiness in all our behavior.
5. The next words from this verse that I want to comment on are the words “His divine power.” Now I want to read verse 3 again just to remind us of what it says: “*seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*”
 - a. In using the words “His divine power,” Peter is telling us we can confidently depend on God doing His part and on each particular part that He does or gives to us. Why? Because He does it by His godly powers.
 - b. This means that what God does for us in relation to being born again and in relation to growing in godliness is supernatural. It is superior to and greater than all the other powers that influence and effect us in this world, including the powers of evil and the power of the devil.
 - c. Therefore, we need not fear or question that God’s doing or God’s part is in any way deficient or insufficient to enable us and assist us from beginning to end in making commendable progress in purifying ourselves just as He is pure.
6. The last word from this verse that I want to comment on is the word “granted.” To grant something is to give something or to bestow something upon someone – either because you see their need, or because they have made their need known by making a request. Either way, a grant is a gift given to meet a need that the one receiving the grant cannot meet on their own.
 - a. This granting is what God did for Israel when He gave them all they needed to drive out the evil inhabitants of the Promised Land. And this granting by God was what that first generation of Israelites coming out of Egypt did not trust in.

- b. And like those Israelites who God powerfully and miraculously saved from slavery in Egypt, we are sometimes tempted to distrust that God has and currently is granting us all that we need to continue pressing forward in living a godly life.
 - (1) Like those Israelites, it is easy for us to look at the struggles, the strength of our fleshly desires, the power of the temptations thrown at us, the numerous failures, and what often appears to be incredibly slow progress, and think that God has abandoned us, or is not doing enough to prevent us from going down in defeat.
 - (2) And yet, what has the power to separate us from God's love and His provision? If He did not spare His own son so that we could gain the abundant life, will He not freely and consistently give us everything we need to do our part for growing in godliness and becoming a mature Christian?
- c. Of course, we know the answer is YES! And yet, that YES does not remove the struggle or the failures along the way or the potential discouragement and feelings that we still need more than God is giving and doing.
- d. So why does God grant us what He determines we need rather than what we think we need? I believe there are three answers to that question.
 - (1) First, God is committed to the principle of love as a ruling principle of life, and there can be no selfless, sacrificial, continuous love apart from free will. In other words, the love that God deems worthy is a love that must be freely chosen. But it must be freely chosen in the face of competing alternatives. Why? Because it is characteristic of love to think first of the object we love most. Therefore, if we are to love God supremely and to love others as ourselves, we must freely choose love over all the other options available to us.
 - (2) Second, God acts on what He knows we need rather than on what we think we need because it is as we do our part that we validate our freely willed commitment to God, our willing submission to God's authority over us, our desire to love God above all else, and our unremitting zeal for holiness. If we have no part to play, we have no opportunity and therefore no proof that we have chosen God as the supreme being in our lives.

- (3) Third, it is as we do our part – as difficult and challenging as that may be – that we grow as a Christian to a strong faith, a settled confidence in God’s goodness and faithfulness, an ever growing and deepening understanding of God’s word, a rich prayer life, true inner peace, strength of character, and intimacy with God.
 - e. Therefore, God grants what He, in His wisdom, knows is vital to our growth in godliness. And from that same wisdom, God directs us to use what is given to do our part, because doing our part is equally vital to becoming the person Jesus saved us to be.
- C. II Peter 1:3b . . . through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
 - 1. In the first half of verse 3, Peter says that it is God’s divine power that grants to us everything pertaining to life and godliness. And then in the second half of verse 3, Peter says that God makes all He does for us available to those who KNOW Him – that is, whose knowledge of God is a life transforming knowledge and a knowledge that brings them into knowing God personally and intimately.
 - a. In Peter’s day, which was much like today, knowledge was held as one of the most important things one could possess. Sadly, groups outside and inside the church began to teach that knowing about God and knowing about the scriptures was what really mattered in relation to eternal salvation – so that how one lived as a Christian became secondary, optional, or even unimportant.
 - b. We saw in verse 2, Peter’s first effort to fight back against that misleading teaching, which is why he uses a word for “knowledge” that speaks of both knowing about God and knowing Him experientially, and therefore personally and intimately.
 - c. The point Peter is making here in verse 3 is that God gives His “everything necessary” gifts to those who not only know about God and the Holy Scriptures, but who also live according to the knowledge they have – which is the only way to gain experiential knowledge of God.
 - 2. The second point Peter makes in this half of verse 3 is that God’s great and gracious giving of all we need for life and godliness comes out of His own glory and excellence (virtue).
 - a. You see, it is God’s goodness, His kindness, His love, His mercy, His compassion – or we might say, it is all God’s great and

marvelous qualities that bring forth His graciously granting us all we need to be born again and live the Christ-like life.

- b. But on the other side of that, it is God's glory and excellence that moves us, or motivates us, to respond to God's grace and love as we ought.
- c. The reality here is that even though the darkness tries to hide God's glory and excellence, and even though sinners don't want to see it, and even though we are sometimes sorely tempted to forget it – in certain circumstances, God is still glorious and excellent, inside and out, in character and in all His ways.
- d. Which is one of the reasons I encourage us to speak of God's glory and excellence each Sunday during our worship time – for in speaking of it we not only give praise and honor to God, but we also remind ourselves and each other that in spite of how we may have felt during the week, our God is glorious and excellent in all His ways.

III. Conclusion

- A. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- B. Communion