



You Have Everything You Need

2 Peter 1:3-9

- 1. **Promise of Divine Power (vv.3-4)**
- a. Spiritual maturity begins with God's provision--it is His divine power
- i. Jesus is the nearest antecedent
- ii. Jesus has been called God and Savior in v.1
- iii. Other passages that corroborate Christ's divine power, especially in relation to the saints and what they are given (Matt 28:16-20; Eph 4:7-15)

- b. Christ has given us everything we need to live the lives he has called us to
 - i. This is important to note because some have called God unfair or miserly (stingy)
 - ii. But this is not true--what God expects from us, he gives us the ability to do

- iii. He doesn't tie one arm behind our respective backs and then command us to swim--if he does, it's because he is expecting us to lean on him to keep afloat
- iv. In the original ($\Omega\varsigma \pi\acute{a}n\tau\alpha \dot{\eta}\mu\tilde{\nu}\nu$) Peter pushes "everything" to the front of the sentence to ensure we get the point of emphasis

- v. We have everything for life and godliness
- (1) Godliness is a term we will return to later in v.6, but think of it as a sum total of a godly life
- (2) This life is certainly possible
- (3) Peter won't just make the claim, but he's going to share how we can do so

Application:

1. So then, if I believe I am WHO God says I am and that I can do what God says I can do, I can THEN live the life that he says I can live

Application:

2. I see so many Christians living in defeat, as if they don't possess the power that Jesus promised would be inside of them--and I have to ask myself at times, "I wonder if they actually believe what Peter says is true--that they have everything they need"

c. How is this possible?

i. Through knowledge of him who called us--Jesus

(1) If we are following the flow of Peter's argument, he is still referring to the Son

ii. This kind of knowledge is intimate (ἐπίγνωσις) knowledge and not simply facts about the Savior

(1) The implication here is--to know the Son is to have access to what you need

iii. The knowledge we have access to and the relationship we now enjoy is because we were called

d. Peter shifts to his discussion to the character traits of a fruitful Christian life (v.4)

i. By these things--glory and excellence (v.3), and the other traits he is about to mention as well

ii. We are gifted God's valued and greatest ($\mu\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\iota\sigma\tau\alpha$) promises that are necessary for living the kind of life God says is possible

iii. If you have ever said that my life is flat, lackluster, or boring--it is likely you have not understood this principle:

The way you and I partake of and exhibit the divine nature is through the attributes that God has made available

- (1) This is how we exhibit Christlikeness
- (2) This is how we escape corruption

2. Pursue Virtuous Growth (vv.5-7)

a. Excellence, which most translate moral excellence; the idea is that we commit to a moral pursuit that seeks to improve character-- we are always working on something

b. Knowledge- says that we are interested in learning more about the foundations and reality of our faith

c. Self-Control is the idea of self mastery (know thyself), but also be in control of self, which requires accountability for what one does and says

d. Perseverance is our favorite word **hupomone**, which has to do with the ability to sustain in a difficult situation (holding a weight that God has not allowed you to put down just yet)

e. Godliness is having appropriate beliefs and devout practice in reference to a deity--meaning a system; we should be able to put a few things together in order to live a godly life

f. Brotherly/Sisterly kindness is the term *philadelphia*, which is the kind of love one would express for a sibling--you will often fall out, but in just a few minutes, everything will be alright

g. Love says to emulate the kind of love God shows in John 3:16 “For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

3. Protection from Idleness (vv.8-9)

- a. These can be yours (if)
- b. They should be increasing in measure, which implies a process and not an automatic upload
- c. To lack these qualities is to be short-sighted in your faith--it is to live with Christian myopia and defeatism