

Renewed Mind Bible Studies

1 & 2 Peter - Session 9 (Exiles Who Grow in Grace)

2 Peter 1:1-11

(Use this sheet to take notes, reflect personally, and contribute to discussion.)

2 Peter 1:1-2 (Grounded in Grace)

- The Greek word for slave is *doulos* (DOO-loss), meaning one bound to another for _____. It carried the picture of belonging completely to a master, not out of oppression here, but out of devotion.
- The phrase “same” comes from the Greek word *isotimos* (ee-SAW-tee-moss). It’s a compound of *isos* (equal) and *timē* (honor, value, worth). Put together, it literally means “_____ precious” or “of equal honor.”
- The phrase translated “justice and fairness” is from the Greek *dikaiosynē* (dee-kai-oh-SOO-nay), which also carries the sense of righteousness, equity, and God’s _____.
- Grace and peace are two of the most common Christian words, but we should not rush past them. *Charis* (KHAH-ris), or grace, is God’s undeserved favor and empowering _____. *Eirēnē* (eye-RAY-nay), or peace, means more than calm feelings...it’s wholeness, harmony, the restoration of what’s _____.
- “As you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.” The word for knowledge here is *epignōsis* (eh-pee-GNO-sis), which doesn’t just mean head knowledge or facts. It means a full, experiential _____.

Personal Insight:

- **Do I see my faith as just as precious and full as the faith of the apostles, or do I live like it’s a second-class version?**
- **Where do I need to lean into grace and peace this week instead of striving on my own strength?**

2 Peter 1:3–4 (Everything We Need)

- He says, “By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.” That word “everything” is panta (PAHN-tah), meaning absolutely all things, without _____.
- How do we receive this? “By coming to know him.” Again Peter uses the word epignōsis (eh-pee-GNO-sis), the _____ knowledge of Christ. This is a relationship.
- Peter then says Jesus “called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” The word for glory is doxa (DOX-ah), meaning radiant honor or splendor. The word for excellence is aretē (ah-reh-TAY), a Greek virtue term often used for moral courage and _____ character.
- Peter says these promises enable us to “share his divine nature.” That phrase is bold. It doesn’t mean we become gods. It means we participate (koinōnoi...partners, sharers) in the very life of God through the Spirit. His nature starts to shape our nature. His Spirit reshapes our desires, affections, and _____ until they look more like His.
- The flip side is just as important: through these promises, we “escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.” The word for corruption is phthora (fthoh-RAH), meaning decay, _____, the slow breakdown of something once whole.

Personal Insight:

- **Do I live as if I already have everything I need in Christ, or do I keep chasing “more” as if I’m missing something?**
- **Which promise of God do I need to cling to this week to resist the pull of worldly desires?**

2 Peter 1:5–7 (Adding to Your Faith)

- Now Peter shifts to our responsibility: “make every effort.” The phrase in Greek is spoudēn pasan pareisenkantes (spoo-DANE pah-SAN par-ice-en-EN-kahnt-es), which means to bring in zeal, diligence, eagerness. In other words, grace doesn’t cancel effort...it actually _____ it.

- Then Peter describes what’s often called, in theological circles, the “ladder of virtues.”
 - _____: the foundation. Trust in Jesus is where it all begins.
 - _____ (aretē, ah-reh-TAY): courage, virtue, integrity. Living with consistent character.
 - _____ (gnōsis, GNO-sis): practical discernment, growing in truth, learning to see life through God’s eyes.
 - _____ (enkrateia, en-KRAH-tay-ah): mastering desires instead of being mastered by them.
 - _____ (hypomonē, hoop-oh-moh-NAY): steadfastness, staying put under pressure instead of giving up.
 - _____ (eusebeia, you-SEB-ay-ah): reverence, devotion, a life oriented toward God in worship and obedience.
 - _____ (philadelphia, fill-ah-DEL-fee-ah): family love, treating fellow believers with loyalty and warmth.
 - _____ (agapē, ah-GAH-pay): the crown of the list, self-giving, sacrificial love that reflects Christ Himself.
- Some of us drift toward apathy: “God will grow me if He wants.” That mindset leads to a passive faith where prayer, Scripture, and obedience are optional. We show up on Sundays, but the rest of the week we coast.
- On the other side, some of us drift toward legalism: “I have to try harder to be worthy.” That mindset piles on guilt and performance pressure.

Personal Insight:

- Which one of these qualities do I most need to “add” to my faith in this season?
- Am I approaching spiritual growth passively by coasting most of the week, or am I legalistically striving, instead of partnering with God’s promises through consistency?

2 Peter 1:8–11 (Effective and Fruitful)

- The Greek word *myeopazō* (mee-oh-PAH-zo), where we get our word “myopia,” literally means nearsighted...seeing only what’s right in front of you. It’s a picture of spiritual forgetfulness, where someone can no longer see the big story of redemption. Peter says they’ve “forgotten” (*lēthē*, LAY-thay, from which we get the word “_____”), meaning they’ve lost sight of the fact that they’ve already been cleansed.
- Verse 10 matters so much. Peter says, “work hard to prove” (*spoudasate*, spoo-DAH-sah-teh, same root as “make every effort” in verse 5) that you belong to the called and chosen. He doesn’t mean earn your salvation...he’s already made clear that salvation is God’s gift. He means live in such a way that your life confirms it.
- Then comes the finish line: “God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom.” The phrase for “grand entrance” is *plousiōs epichorēgēthēsetai* (PLOU-see-oss eh-pee-kor-ay-GAY-thay-set-ai), meaning “lavishly supplied, abundantly provided.” It was the word used for funding a great _____ or putting on a grand production.
- You may feel your faith is weak, your progress slow, your struggles ongoing. But Peter says, if you’re growing, even little by little, your life is not wasted. It’s fruitful. And one day, the King Himself will honor your faith with a welcome that outlines every trial you endured.

Personal Insight:

- **Where have I grown content with being “idle” in faith instead of pursuing fruitfulness?**
- **What daily habit can I strengthen this week to keep me from being spiritually shortsighted and help me keep the big picture of eternity in view?**

Group Discussion Questions

1. Peter says we’ve been given everything we need for a godly life (1:3). Where do you still feel like you’re lacking, and how might that reveal a place where God is inviting you to trust Him more deeply?
2. Looking at Peter’s “ladder of virtues” (faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love), which step feels the most natural to you right now? Which one feels the hardest?

3. Verse 8 warns against becoming “ineffective and unfruitful.” In your own words, what does a fruitful faith look like in everyday life?

4. How does remembering that your faith is just as “precious” as Peter’s (1:1) challenge comparison, insecurity, or even pride in the church today?

5. Verse 11 promises an “abundant welcome” into Christ’s Kingdom. How does keeping eternity in view change the way you approach growth right now?

Prayer Challenge for the Group

Tonight, ask each person to quietly reflect and share one area of growth they long for...whether it’s self-control in a specific struggle, perseverance in a trial, or deeper love for someone who is hard to love. As each person shares, take time to pray over them by name, asking God to strengthen what is weak, to increase what is already there, and to remind each of us that He has already given us everything we need for life and godliness.

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