



gracefellowship

Everything
August 25, 2019
Everything We Need

:: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Introduction: Have you ever run into a situation where you didn't have everything you needed to complete a project or assignment? I recently bought a new desk for my office and it came in three giant boxes. When I pulled out the directions there were just pictures for each step, no words telling me some needed information, including which size hardware to use for specific steps along the way! Thank goodness we have a church full of engineers! I called Bill Wight and asked him to come help me assemble the thing. Even he was stumped for a little while! Finally we started making headway on the thing and got it together. But I didn't have everything I needed to do that project on my own!

Have you ever gotten half way into preparing a meal and realized you didn't have a vital ingredient? That's when you hope you have good neighbors with a well-stocked pantry!

Let me ask you a more difficult question: Have you ever felt like you don't have everything it takes to succeed in your faith journey? Maybe there are times that arise or situations you face that you feel completely unequipped to handle. Or maybe you think other people are more faith-filled and spiritual than you and you've maxed out in your growth as a disciple of Jesus. When you read the bible and see the call to holiness and godliness you find yourself thinking, "That's for someone else; I can never be those things." I have good news for you today: when God called you into His family and you placed your faith in Jesus for salvation, the Holy Spirit went to work in your life to change you and you have everything you need to have a growing, vibrant relationship with Jesus for the rest of your life!

As we begin this new series today called *Everything*, I hope you will find hope to push ahead in your faith journey and a renewed sense of the Holy Spirit's equipping power in your life to be everything God wants you to be as a disciple of Jesus.

:: 2 Peter 1:1-5

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Peter is writing to Christians- those who have received God's righteousness through faith in Jesus. We are people under the grace of God and who are living at peace with God. When you realize you can't do anything to pay for your own sins and that you can't be good enough to earn salvation, you need to turn to God in faith and receive the gift of salvation He offers to you by trusting in Jesus for salvation. When you come into God's family through faith Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that we are new creations- the old has gone and the new has come. God wants to radically change you and give you a brand new outlook on life. He charts a different path for your life than you would ever have thought possible and He is going to take you on a journey of faith you could never have dreamed of.

This is where Peter tells us that His (Jesus') divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life.

God wants you to live a godly life and escape the corruption in the world caused by our evil desires, so He has given us everything we need to follow Him in growing faithfulness throughout our lives. Let me ask a question and give you three quick answers then we will talk them through.

How do we live a godly life?

Jerry Bridges gives the best definition of godliness in my opinion. Godliness is a devotion to God that results in a life (or actions) that are pleasing to Him. We are going to come back in a few weeks and address that further. But we're asking the question, "how do we live a godly life," so the context is, how do I live a life of devotion to God which results in the actions of my life being pleasing to Him?

Here's what Peter says:

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

How do we live a godly life?

1. **Through or knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.**
2. **Through His glory and goodness we receive great and precious promises.**
3. **Through God's promises we participate in the divine nature.**

Notice what Peter says in verse 3: *His* divine power has *given* us everything we need for a godly life. We don't conjure up the ability to be godly on our own. We also don't manipulate God into seeing us as godly. He alone gives us what we need to be able to live the life He intends for us to have in relationship with Him. As we get to know God we grow in our understanding of His call and His sanctifying work through the power of the Holy Spirit to equip us for a life of godliness. Knowledge of God doesn't indicate a casual awareness, but an intimate, exact, complete and thorough knowledge of God through His Word, through seeing the person of Jesus and through having the Holy Spirit dwell in us.

Knowledge of God brings us to understand the great and precious promises He has made for us. There are over 3000 promises. These promises come as a result of God's glory and goodness, so every promise of God will be kept. The greatest promise is that anyone who believes on the Lord Jesus will be saved. But we are not saved to simply escape eternal judgment. Peter tells us that through God's promises we participate in the divine nature.

Christianity is about so much more than being a part of a weekly worship service or reading your Bible and praying consistently. Peter tells we are participants in the divine nature- this means we have an active role to play as we live for Jesus. The Greek word for participate is *koinōnos* (coin-o-noss), and it carries with it the idea of being a partner and partaker in fellowship with God. In Galatians 4, Paul talked about this idea of participating in the divine nature like this:

:: Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

To wrap this up today I want us to look at the way Peter responds to these truths.

If we have been given everything we need for a life of godliness...

* through our knowledge of God's glory and goodness

* through His great and precious promises

* so that we can participate in the divine nature

Peter says...

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,

11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus

Peter lists characteristics that we should be developing in our lives in partnership with the Holy Spirit in order to grow in godliness. This is a life-long process called sanctification. If you'll notice in verse 5 we have an active role to play in being godly; you don't just sit back and wait on the Holy Spirit to change you. Peter tells us to make every effort to add to our faith. Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at each one of these characteristics, beginning with faith. Many of you will be in Life Groups discussing these things and encouraging one another to take steps this semester to grow in godliness. With the help of the Holy Spirit this is a pursuit each and every believer in Jesus can and should undertake.

Why is this so important?

Why should I pursue a godly life?

There are 2 promises and a warning in this passage:

Promise: Possessing these qualities in increasing measure will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive!

That's a great promise! I imagine you've never joined a team or taken a job and thought to yourself, "I hope I'm not very good at this and that it's a waste of my time!" We want to be effective and productive in the things we are engaged in; our Christian faith should be no different. And this is a lifetime pursuit. Peter says we are to pursue these characteristics in increasing measure. You're never at a point where you can say, "I have enough self-control; I think I can take it easy from now on!" Or, "I think my love has reached epic enough proportions that I can stop working on that element of my life."

To be effective and productive in our faith as disciples of Jesus we need to be growing in these things continually.

Warning: Anyone who does not possess these qualities is near-sighted and blind, forgetting they have been cleansed from their past sins.

I'm incredibly nearsighted. If it weren't for contacts and glasses I wouldn't be able to see things in focus outside of a few inches of my face! To say that someone is spiritually nearsighted means that they are still only focused on the immediate things in this life and the concerns of this world and have not opened their mind to the reality of an eternal life in God's Kingdom. This is why we need to preach the gospel to ourselves constantly. Remind yourself daily that you are a child of God's grace, that you have a future with Him in heaven that outweighs everything in this world, and that you need to work with the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus every day.

Promise: If you do these things you will never stumble and you will receive a rich welcome into God's Kingdom.

How can you be sure you get to the end of your life on this earth and stand before God and hear Him say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant?" Make your calling and election sure by have a life built on Jesus and daily let the Holy Spirit show you where you need to add to your faith. God has given you everything you need to do this. Now it's our responsibility to make every effort to join the Holy Spirit in this process of sanctification so you can run, not stumble into the rich inheritance of God's Kingdom!

Final Challenge: As we go through this series I want to encourage you to memorize this passage. Life Group leaders, if you are using our sermons for your group discussions this series, make a time in your group meetings to let people try to quote this passage. I especially want to encourage you to work with your kids and teenagers to memorize this. I would love to have a part of our service each week during the series to give someone a chance to share this passage with our faith family from memory, so, if you or one of your kids get it memorized let me know!

Pray: Thank God for giving us everything we need to follow Him and grow in godliness. Thank God for being a good Father who has the best future in mind for His kids and wants us to cross the finish line into eternity running full stride toward our inheritance.