

**“Delivered to Destiny”  
2 PETER 1:3-11  
Pastor Mike Perkinson**

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**INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS**

In my 46 years of ministry, one of the aspects I notice about people is our inability to grasp the Fatherhood of God and our status as **“heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ” – you know being a son/daughter.** This is ironic because we are a society that has a preoccupation with status and position and yet, **we find it difficult to embrace the beauty of who God is and who we are in Him. Knowing these twin towers of foundational truth, I dare say, is the basis for our victory and joy.** Truth is “I am saved by grace, a child of God, and an heir of God.” Our passage helps us move into that reality living in the reality that we are “divine partakers of the divine nature” and how to live that out.

**NOTE: Highlighted green to be on the screen**

**2 Pet 1:3-11 (ESV) on the screen**

**3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**We don't see things as they are we see them as we are.**

**Hell has NO power over a blood bought believer except that which we allow. Which is why the game is deception. Hell is after your identity as a son and daughter of God and get you to live in your might and not His. Remember, His fight. His might. Your fight. Your might.**

**Let me boldly declare...that to be a partaker of the divine nature is not the GOAL of the Christian life; it is the STARTING POINT!**

## **FALSE TEACHERS**

There is definitely a problem with false teachers (cf. 2:1-3, hinted at in 1:16) infiltrating the ranks of the saved with coercive doctrine and leading some down the path of destruction. As a result, Peter writes to warn the readers about the false teaching and to undergird their faith in the hope of the second coming. It is most probable that the heresy was a primitive form of Gnosticism. I make this connection from the following:

1. The teachers deny the Lordship of Christ (2:1; Jude 4)
2. Minimized law and gave way to passion (2:10, 12ff., 18; Jude 4, 12)
3. The teachers were out for themselves, out for gain, and fond of rhetoric (2:3, 12, 14, 15, 18; Jude 16)
4. Arrogant, not listening to authorities whatsoever (2:1, 10-11; Jude 8)
5. Set up divisions (2:2, 10, 18-19; Jude 19)
6. They twist scripture and make of private interpretation (1:20-2:1; 3:15-16).

## **SOME ENCOURAGING WORDS (Vss. 3-4)**

Vs. 3: **We have received the power for life and godliness through “the knowledge of Him.”**

- a. **We have been called** --“Him who called us to his own glory and excellence.”
- b. **The ground for the apostle’s call to holy living is the call of God. “The one who calls enables.”** (Green, *The Second Epistle of Peter and Jude*, p. 63)

Vs 4: **We have been given precious promises which are to aid us in escaping from corruption.** Through Christ’s glory and excellence the promises have been given. The inference is outstanding: **we will participate in His glory and moral excellence.**

Vs. 5-7: **“For this very reason,” it is precisely because of the grace of God which saved us, the precious promises, the divine power offered in Christ, and the corruption caused by evil desires that we cannot sit back and do nothing.**

- a. Peter referred back to the divine nature by beginning this new paragraph with the words **for this very reason**. The words **make every effort** translate a participle (παρεισενέγκαντες, “applying, bringing to bear alongside of”; used only here in the NT) and σπουδὴν πᾶσαν (“all diligence” or “all zeal”). It takes every bit of diligence and effort a Christian can muster, along with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, to “escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” (2 Peter 1:4) and to bring in alongside of his faith a complement of virtue. **He should work hard at cultivating the seven qualities Peter listed in verses 5–7.** As a Christian does so, he becomes more like Christ, participating more fully in God’s divine nature.
- b. The word **add**, in the imperative, translates ἐπιχορηγήσατε, from which come the English words “chorus,” “choreograph,” and “choreography.” In ancient Greece the state established a chorus but the director, the *chorēgys*, paid the expenses for training the chorus. Then the word came to be used of one who provides for or supports others or supplies something for them in abundance. **A believer is to “furnish, supply, or support” his life with these virtues.**
- c. **Faith in Jesus Christ is what separates Christians from all other people. πιστεῖ, trust in the Savior, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, not a system of religious practices, but faith in the PERSON of Christ is what brings and keeps one in the family of God. Faith, this trust in Christ, is the foundation of all other qualities in the Christian life.**

1. To his faith each believer should add **goodness** (lit., “moral excellency,” or “virtue”), **knowledge** (γνώσει), **self-control**, **perseverance** (ὑπομονήν means “staying under”), **godliness** (εὐσέβειαν) refers to piety, man’s obligation of reverence toward God.
2. The first five virtues pertain to one’s inner life and his relationship to God. The last two relate to others. **Brotherly kindness** translates the Greek *φιλανθρωπία*, a fervent practical caring for others.
3. Whereas **brotherly kindness** is concern for others’ needs, **love (agapēn)** is desiring the highest good for others.

The individual who lacks these qualities is “*blind and shortsighted and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*” (vs. 9) Short-sighted and blind seems to be a strangely mixed metaphor. Peter may mean that such people are short-sighted because they cannot look back far enough to remember the sins from which they were delivered and blind to the glorious possibilities of spiritual development that exist in Christ.

**Notice what Peter is describing is an identity issue:** if an individual does not possess the virtues it’s not because they did not try hard enough. The problem is they have forgotten who they are in Christ, as Peter so explicitly states: “and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.” Knowledge of Christ and of ourselves is critical for victory – that is a deep, intimate relationship with Christ.

Prophetic Word for Light and Life (highlighted green to be on the screen)

#### Four Stages of the Christian Life

1. Desperation
2. Deliverance
3. Desert
4. Destiny ~ Fullness and Joy in His presence (Ps 16:11) and the Abundant life (Jn 10:10a)

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” (Isa 41:10, ESV)

#### The Obstacle

“And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.” (Num 13:33)

#### The Choice

30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” 31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had

spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.” (Num 13:30-32)

Empowered in the Desert...wait, what?

“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil...And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee” (Lk 4:1-2 & 14a)

- It is the wilderness where the sons and daughters of God are fashioned on the crucible of life.

The trial is the trail, the problem is the pathway, the obstacle is the stepping stone to your God-given destiny.

Hell seeks to stop by the unholy trinity of shame, fear and anxiety

Shame is the power that pulls us into the past where we relive the failures of our former self.

Fear is the power that pulls us into the future where we pre-live the failures of our future self.

Anxiety is the bonding agent that seals you in the shame of your past while it inflates the fear of your future.

The Crossings

□ Crossing of Desperation (Red Sea)

□ Deliverance

□ Desert

□ Crossing of Destiny (Jordan River)

**COMMENTS** On Crossing of Desperation

- If we talk about the problem first the problem will become our God and it will shape our expectation. We need to begin with God and then present the problem.
- Deliverance is not always immediate – The parting of the sea took all night (Ex 14:21).

**ILLUS:** Don Smith, wrongly fired, 8k a year in the early 70's – paid that in taxes the next year with his new job

- Response was not “Oh God, what am I going to do?” but “Oh God what are YOU going to do?”

Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” (Josh 3:5, ESV)

- Time for prayer and consecration, to press in for all the Father has...praying and anointing future to walk in their God-given identity and live into their God-given destiny.