

# 2 PETER

EVERY EFFORT

## 2 PETER: EVERY EFFORT TO KNOW THE SPIRIT

*September 5, 2021*

Eddie Williams

### 2 Peter 1:1 - 4

Welcome to the Doxa Church podcast. 2 Peter is a letter of passionate pleading from the apostle Peter to multiple churches, reminding them that God's power and grace transforms believers to live righteously, even in the face of increasingly hostile and opposing culture. God sustains us until Jesus returns to restore all things, and until then we make every effort to follow Christ. Join us in this six week series as we walk through the book of 2 Peter. For more information about Doxa or to join us for a Sunday gathering, go to [doxa-church.com](http://doxa-church.com).

I'm honored to be here. My name is Eddie. Yeah, thank you. I'm honored. Tremendously honored, but I do have to say thank you to pastor Alex. I don't know pastor Alex at all. I know I've gotten to hear about his impact at Doxa through the elders and staff. And I just want to say, thank you. We're all standing on your shoulders. I certainly am very much doing so. And I'm thankful for the work that you put in, and I hope that I can go out the way you're going out. I'm honored, to see, to be able to see that and watch that. So thank you very much. And I hope you guys all were as well. Today we have the privilege of starting a new series in 2 Peter, and this is my first series kickoff with Doxa so I'm very excited about that. Yeah. And this book is fascinating way to kick off my time with you all because it's Peter's final letter. In the same way we got to see pastor Alex go out, we get to see Peter go out and then me kind of show up going, "This is quite a vacuum of leadership I'm going to have to try to step into." So I'm going to pray for us as we get started and I'm hopeful God will show up and do some amazing things in our hearts and minds. Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, as we kick off an amazing opportunity and amazing series, Lord Jesus, as we talk about what it means to pursue righteousness and holiness and acknowledging you with every effort, Lord, we pray that ultimately the effort is yours. That we actually get to look to you to do all of the heavy lifting, Lord, and we get to by faith partake in your divine nature. So Lord

Jesus, as we go throughout this series, Lord, would our hearts be open. Would our minds be prepared. Would our minds not get in the way of what our hearts are trying to tell us. And Lord, anything that's from you, Lord God, would that be received, and would that settle in. And anything that comes from me in my sin and my brokenness, would that be discarded by Doxa here this morning and throughout the series. In Jesus name, Amen.

All right. Walking through Peter's final letter in, this is obviously 2 Peter. Now this letter was written by Peter. Now some of these letters, it's controversial as to who wrote them, right? But this one being from Peter, not unclear. This was written at around AD 64 through 67, sometime in that, in that time period. Certainly Peter was awaiting his certain execution in Rome under captivity. Now it seems like a lot of these letters are written when someone's awaiting their execution. Okay? This one is as well. Now up until their deaths, the 12 apostles were the big authorities in the days, right? In the middle east, if you were a Christian, you looked to the 12 apostles to kind of guide you through what you were hoping for, for your faith, what the knowledge of it was. Their knowledge of the Old Testament and its connections to Jesus was incredibly clear, but also the fact that they were proving out their knowledge with divine works. So healings were taking place. Prophecy was taking place. So it was clear that we could follow these guys because if we follow them, we can kind of clearly see that they're going to be able to heal somebody if someone needs to get healed. It was quite obvious, but Peter's getting ready to probably die. And he knows that. And so a big age in the church is ending. The apostolic age. This is the age where all of the original 12 disciples or the 11 disciples plus the new one are all going to probably pass away. Now, keep in mind that in this day, it was probably thought that maybe Jesus would come back before they died. So the people in the day didn't necessarily understand that, "Hey, we're going to be doing this church thing without Peter, James, and John. That's going to be weird." Imagine that, right? Put yourself in their shoes for a moment. Everything you thought about your faith. Jesus goes away. Then these 12 leaders, they're all stepping aside. What are we going to do? Peter understood this as well. And that's why he writes this letter. He understands that after their deaths, after all the 12 disciples, 12 apostles die, that they would face false teaching, certainly altering the gospel message as it did when they were alive, and who God was and how we understand them would be under attack. Some people outright denying the gospel's existence at all. Certainly the message of the gospel couldn't just pass as folklore stories about who Peter and James and John were. It couldn't happen. So this is why Peter writes this letter. He writes this letter to remind believers in his day and across all ages, truthfully, including us, what it will take to persevere in your faith from now until glory comes, when Jesus comes back. This is why he's writing this letter. Now put yourself in Peter's shoes for a second. Okay. Remember certain execution. In his mind, he's got one letter left. He's got to be clear about what it's going to maintain, what it's going to take to maintain this faith moving forward. One letter left. This is my shot. So as a result, the tone of this, this letter, 2 Peter, it's not quite pastoral. It's more written with an angst and a fervor to implore the churches he's writing to, to press forward in the faith, despite modern oppositions as they unfold. Does that make sense? Now, as I'm reading this, I think there's one verse that kind of sums up this book, and I think it's a verse that sums up this message quite well. And it's this, it's not on the screen, "His divine power has granted to us, all things that pertain to life and godliness." What is Peter saying in all that? God has given you all you need to navigate our complex world with godliness. But I'll be honest with you. The last 12

to 18 months, as I looked down the corridor of time in my life, I'm quite certain, I don't know if I've navigated this super well with any sort of spiritual acumen. Like, I'm just being honest with you up here. This has been a really hard season. And the talk of depression and anxiety and stress is fever pitch. And it seemed like it was going to go away for a bit, but now it's back and all of us are sort of on edge. And if you're not, man, praise God for you, but everybody I know that I talk to has either stress, anxiety, or depression going on, on one way or one way or another. This is this really, really troubling. So when Peter is like, you have everything you need to be godly and to conquer life and godliness in this world, you've got it. I was like, "Ugh, do I really? Am I following what the Bible is supposed to, am I following what the Bible is telling me I'm supposed to do?" Again, anxiety, right? But doesn't the Bible say be anxious for nothing. Wait. Well, how are we so anxious? And are we afraid? Kind of, is there a little fear going on? I'm honest with you. There's a lot of fear. Bible says fear not for I am with you. Okay. What about praying? Am I praying? Oh man. Maybe not as much as I'm supposed to. Well, the Bible says if you ask not you have not. And so we have this, we're in this season where we understand the Bible is telling us to do something and yet we're feeling a whole other thing. Right? And I'll submit to you and say, I think it's because the world is changing. Our bodies are trying to adjust to the changing landscape that we find ourselves in. And our bodies through anxiety, depression, fear, stress, we're all footing the bill for this changing world. I mean, think about it. The speed, and many of you work in technology, the speed at which technological innovation is changing the very way we live from moment to moment is lightning fast. It's it's, it's insane. I mean, just a few years ago, the thought of working from home for 95% of people, it was unconscionable. It was iPhone 4. It doesn't work. It's too slow. No email, right? Emails, clients stunk. Your video was fuzzy, right? Zoom was barely around. All of these different things. It was incredibly difficult to work from home. Internet too slow, phone not fast enough. It's funny. I was perusing cable television, which is unusual for me, let's just say, and I came across TNT and what's always playing on TNT? Back to the Future. Back to the Future is playing on TNT. And it takes place in 1985. And I'm watching this sort of their version of what 20, was it

2021 or whatever it would be like, or 2015 or whatever. And I'm looking at their version of that and kind of chuckling. But then when they go into 1985, I think, 1985 is kind of scary. I mean, imagine what would happen if I somehow was teleported back into 1985. Like, what would I do? The first thing I do is reach for my pocket for my phone. Not there. Like how do I call anybody? I don't know. Right? There's no one to call. Right. I go to a weird phone book or a phone booth and I've got to search through it. I've got to ask for directions. I have no Google maps, no Apple maps. Like how do I get to a grocery store? I'm a weak feeble man in 1985. I order my groceries to my house from my phone. I don't know what to do. There's no Amazon. I'm totally lost. That's how fast technology is moving. It is going so quick. And then COVID comes and accelerates and moves the world online even faster. Everyone online, within a matter of days, all the churches that said, "You know what? We're just an old school church. We're going to stay in person. We're not going to have any online gatherings." And then COVID hits. It's like, oh, we need to figure out this old camera in the back and get us online, cause no one can come. That's what happened.

We are truly living in a new day, but I think we might be living in a new land, new landscape altogether. This is actually what David Kinnaman from Barna Group calls Digital Babylon. In

the Old Testament God's people were taken captive into Babylon, it was a foreign land, now this is a foreign land, foreign culture, foreign religion, food customs, all of life, completely foreign and different. And yet somehow throughout these challenges, a faithful remnant was able to stay faithful to God and rebirth God's people back in Jerusalem. It's fascinating. Now Kinnaman, he makes the point that those of us who call themselves Christians today, many of us in here are currently living in a digital Babylon. Now we live in a digital space where we're fully immersed in WiFi and phones and internet, where everything is different. The online landscape, the digital space has different values, different rules, and different worldviews. And it's up to us to discover how we continue to worship God in a digital land that doesn't create space for Him. And so far, the result of that, of us losing a digital Babylon is stress, anxiety, a hollow feeling, depression. And I make the case that we are actually a society that is more digitally formed and not spiritually formed. It's not just society, by the way. If you were to just take the Christians, for those that are here that are believers, Christians, we are even more digitally formed than spiritually formed. According to the Barna Group today, the average Christian is 15 to 23 years old, some of you in here, spend 20 times more time consuming digital content than spiritual content. Now this is pre-COVID. So these numbers have accelerated and those that are much older than 23, get to also join in on the fun, because the average US adult spends between five and six hours a day, looking at a screen for non-work-related activity. It's not shocking to you, you know that, but it sucks to hear it, right? I knew it was true. The average adult picks up their phone a shocking 58 times a day. And I've picked up my phone probably half that today.

So what does it all mean? Here's what I think it means. Traditional methods of spiritual formation will not compete with the amount of digital formation we are currently doing. We must become intentional exiles, intentional exiles in a world that does not have our best interests at heart. Keyword on intentional. So in this passage, in this text, Peter gives us two massive truths for how we can overcome even the most seducing of worldviews. Now we're going to get a little more practical next week in terms of how we do this, but I want to give you the overarching framework for this message as Peter does in this. So two truths. One truth is discovered early in 2 Peter, and is repeated over and over throughout the Bible. And it's right here in verses one and two, let's check it out.

"Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Christ of Jesus Christ. To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."

Now right away, I hear two words that make my ears perk up in this passage. Now it's all powerful, but there's two specific words I want to point out to you. It's these words, grace and peace. Do you want grace and peace? Yeah. Even if you don't know, even if you couldn't audibly say that, you do in your soul, you need it. What do you have if you don't have grace from others and from God and peace in your own heart? What do you have? Not a lot. We need these two things. Because really the opposite of grace and peace is unforgiving and anxious. And let's be honest, a lot of us are there. I feel unforgiven and anxious. We need these two things and we are getting, we get to receive them in this passage. We deeply desire grace and peace over our lives. And the truth is, that's what we're all seeking. And when we disappear on a social media or take a new job or move to a new city, what are we really looking for? What are we longing for? Sometimes it's practical, but oftentimes we're looking for grace from

others and the people around us that we don't mess up, from God that he's going to bless what we're doing, and peace in our heart that we made the right decision. Peace from God that I can finally be whole, the Shalom, be whole in the city and community I moved to. We're longing for these things. But how do you get grace and peace? In the knowledge of God. That's how you get it. Again, the verse "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." So as we know God, we sort of gain these essential elements of life. But there's more about knowledge in this passage, and it's in verse three. It says this, "His," that's God's, "divine nature 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."

So the knowledge of God doesn't only help us achieve peace and grace, but actually it's through the knowledge of God that we're actually able to navigate all things that pertain to life and godliness. That's what the passage is. So this brings us to our first truth. Spiritual formation requires a longing to know God at a deep and complete level. If we want to be formed in this world, rather than digitally formed, if we want to be spiritually formed, there has to be a longing to know God at a deep level. But I do think there is a big question mark, as you read that, and the big question pops up for me when I hear that, that truth, and that's this, what does it actually mean to know God? Is it book knowledge? Is it head knowledge? Is it college? Is it, is it experiential? What is it? Now, the word knowledge is scattered all throughout 2 Peter, all over this book. So this is a key theme here. And anytime the Bible, by the way, is doing that, it's doing it on purpose. This is not an oversight. Remember, there's some intentional design behind this book. So God is trying to tell us something about this word knowledge as it relates to us. The Greek word here for knowledge really means full total and complete knowledge. That doesn't help us much, but if you think about this context, here's my definition: Knowledge is a divine clarity about the ways and about the character of God. It's a divine clarity about the ways and character of God. Now it's not saying people with the knowledge of God, so to speak, know everything about the Bible. That's not what it's saying. And it's also not saying that these are the people that had the best grades in Bible college. It's not saying that at all. It is actually saying that when we experience God in his word and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the scripture sort of overcomes us and we get it. Right? The lights come on. And the knowledge of God influences all of life. It's this sort of passive understanding with clarity of who God is. Now, this seems kind of simple, but it's not easy to follow. Right? We explained that. Now for those of us here that are Christians, you remember your conversion moment. For me, I was in college. I was sitting in my dorm room and I opened up the Bible and I'm reading through the book of John and boom the lights sort of come on for me. And I remember this moment where I had all this fervor and excitement. I was running around and I was sort of like the secular Pharisee knocking on roommate's doors, "Hey, let me tell you about God and where you're failing." That was me. It was like, let me get the book. I'm looking at this. I'm seeing you're doing the opposite. Did you know that there's a Bible that tells you how to live? And that was what I did. And I was misguided, but I did have a lot of fervor and excitement for Jesus. And some of you may have understood and experienced that. But as you live and as you go, you realize that sometimes that fire goes away. You're no longer as excited and as fervent as you were before for God. It just, sometimes it goes away. It fades. Now you might be thinking the same thing right now. You know, I study my Bible. I'm coming to church, I've gone to MC. Maybe I've watched some YouTube videos or opened a few books. And I still

don't feel God. I don't feel his presence. Maybe you're anxious to the point where you can't even feel God. You're depressed to the point. Let me ask a question to you if you're feeling that this morning, where do you feel like you go in your moments of stress and anxiety? Where do you go? Now, it's probably rarely to God like it is for most people. Now I'm not trying to pull a spiritual fast one on you. Okay. But let's be real. When you're actually stressed out in your daily life, what do you do? Open the fridge. Pull up, pull up, pull out your phone. Mindlessly scroll. Send emails. Get busy about doing nothing. Sometimes that's where we're at. TV, iPads, cell phones, social media. We'll say things like I need to distress, I've got to zone out. That's my go-to language. I got to zone out and I'll be back in two hours. Like I'm going into this sort of weird biological cyborg nature and I'm going to be, I'll be back in two hours and that's what we feel. Or maybe sometimes we say, I'm depressed. I need a pick me up. I just need something to make me laugh. And we'll disappear into something that will make us laugh. Or we'll say, I'm anxious. I need a little mindless Instagram will help, a little mindless scrolling, a little mindless television. A little mindlessness will help. If this is you, and it has been me, again, this is digital formation, not spiritual formation. In this new complex world, we've sat under the routine of screens to solve deep spiritual problems. And it's not working. The reason why your biology is experiencing the stress and anxiety it is experiencing now is because our spiritual need is too large for the amount of digital formation we're doing. It's too great.

You know, I was thinking about this the other day. Do you know why I'm anxious? Do you know why you might be anxious? Not because something is wrong with you. I think you're anxious and I think I'm anxious because we're actually good disciples of the digital formation age. The technology that is around us, isn't built for humanity. We've become really good disciples of the digital age, allowing our biology to be hacked by companies, technology, and software that are trying to help you in some ways, but have no care for your soul. That's what's happening. And you know, we'll try almost anything to learn how we should live apart from God. That's human nature. This is where we underestimate the strength of our own will to sort of ignore which is good for us and go our own way. That's the story of the gospel. That's the story of the fall of man in Genesis chapter three. We always have the best answer to our problems and it never includes God and we always decide we know better. Such is the disease of sin. Think about it. This is the way to do it. I'm going to do it the opposite way and I'm going to figure it out. Why am I so stressed out and anxious about it? I don't understand. I told you the way is this way. God's gentle. The disease of sin. I don't think we understand the amount of resources we do have. When you obtain the knowledge of God, when you obtain the knowledge of God through proximity to him and his word and by power of the Holy Spirit, you get to live in sync with God's created order for the world, granting you peace and grace in your life that helps you navigate the stress and anxiety of others. Are we spiritually formed or are we digitally formed? Or are we formed in some other way? We have to think about that.

Now I did mention there are two truths in this passage. So to find the next truth, we're gonna have to pay close attention to verse verse four. And it's this, it says this, "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." Aw man, the promises of God. Did you catch that? "By which he has granted to us, his precious and very great promises." We could easily skirt past that and not understand it, but I think there's a lot of gold here. These are important because it's through these

promises that we become, it says, "partakers of God's very divine nature." Yikes. So what's our second truth here? Truth two: Remembering God's promises unlocks our ability to remain spiritually healthy in a complex world.

So what are these promises and why are they so important? Well, they're not a Bentley, I can tell you that. Okay? Because if you watch enough television, you know that the promises of God, if you buy this oil for 59.99 are clothes, riches, all sorts of different things, right? Lavish gifts, you sow a seed, you get back 10 fold, a hundred fold, a thousand fold. You're getting all this amazing stuff. So I just want to start there. It's not, it's not worldly sort of Christmas for billionaires, okay? That's not what's happening. But it's also not just a gift. It's a gift. It's not less than a gift, but it's more than a gift. So God's promises aren't just a gift, they are promises from God that they will not be broken. You know how it's like on Christmas or for a birthday, someone gives you a gift. You're kind of excited, but you understand that it might be something you don't want. It could be, it could be awesome. It could be not awesome. Like, you know, it could be cologne. Like I like cologne. Right, great. I'll just smell good. It could be razors, right? Something like really that you need. But thank you. That's great. Could have gotten it at Safeway, but thank you. Not to shame people for getting razors. Okay. I understand. I'm just saying, you understand the nature of a gift, sometimes it's great, and sometimes it's not. But this is a promise from God. This is really important. This is a big, powerful idea. God's promise is a guarantee. And here's the thing. That doesn't sink in. Not for any, is anyone here feeling like, man, this is good? God's promises are so true in my life. Some of us, yeah, you're right. God's promises. We're treating it kind of like a gift. Like maybe it's good, maybe it's not. Do you know why it's not sinking in? It's because sin has programmed us to distrust the promises. We are fractured from our very nature. And when God says something, we have a tendency to not believe it. That's what's happening right now in this moment. So the prospect of a promise, isn't such a big deal because who knows if it'll really come true anyway. And if it does come true, maybe it's not that awesome. That's why some of us are so amazed at long marriages. Whoa, you've been married 60 years. You kept your promise that long? It's like mind blowing that someone would actually keep the promise that they, that they promised. Til death do us part, 60 years, 70 year marriages. Wow. You did it because so many people don't make it through that place. They break their promises. It happens. So sin has programmed us to distrust promises. But the other reason why we might not trust God's promises is that we've all experienced broken promises. And we know the pain it feels to have someone break their promise to us, and when it meant a lot. And so as a defense mechanism, we kind of shut down and go numb when we hear promises. And not of our own doing, maybe even just subliminally it's happening. I remember, some of my story is that growing up in California, my parents were never married. And my mom and dad separated age nine, when I was nine. And so I was living, me and my younger sister were living with my mom and we would bounce around from house to house in section eight. And my dad wasn't in the picture, but every now and then he would call us out of the blue. And I mean, he would talk to us like he was our dad. I mean, I'd get 15, 20, 25 minute conversations with my dad as a nine and 10 year old kid. And at the end of the conversation, he'd say, "Hey, I'm going to come pick you up this weekend, son." You know where I'm going with this. And so as like a nine-year-old did, I'm like, I'm going to go wait for my dad. I'm gonna pack my bag. I'm gonna go sit outside. And I was that kid, like in the movies you watch where the dad doesn't come. That was me.

And I'd sit out on the porch and I'd wait for my dad. And he would never come. He never came once. He made that promise two dozen times. And every time I believed him and you know what that taught me about promises? That they don't matter. They don't mean anything. People break their promises. But as I became a Christian, I learned that God is a dad who is not like my dad. He's not an earthly father who sometimes fails like I do as a dad. But he's a godly father who never fails and will never leave nor forsake. And when he makes a promise, he keeps it. His promises matter to us. And they matter to him. The whole story of the Bible is him keeping a large promise to us. That's the message of the Bible. We break our promises to him. He keeps ours. He keeps his for us. And his gifts out of the promise are so large and so great, and they lavish us even when we don't even understand how good the promise is, like we do right now. This is big.

So what does he promise? Jeremiah 31. He promises a new heart with new desires. That as the people of Israel, God's people, would fail him continually, he would give us a heart that will love him, that'll be after him, right? Ezekiel, removes Israel's heart of stone, gives them a heart of flesh. One that can follow him, that's filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. He grants us salvation. That those who believe in Jesus Christ will not perish because of their sin, but will walk into everlasting glory with him. A promise that we don't even fully understand and still will keep. He promises a renewed world. One that's free of COVID, free of nature attacking humanity, free of humanity attacking one another, free of ourselves attacking ourselves. And that when he redeems, renews, and restores the world back to what he intended it to be. But there's a second part to this. It's not just the promise. It's actually remembering the promise, right?

The word remember struck me really late as I was writing this because I think the tendency is to go, "Yep, I know the Bible. Yep, I know God promise, he promises salvation, he promises the redeemed and renewed world. He promises to kill Satan, to kill death, to conquer everything. I understand that. I know I need to remember God's promises. I know." But if you're here and you're saying that in your head, here's what you need to know. The Bible, the entire Bible, is a story about people who know God's word and do the opposite. We do know that this is what's supposed to happen, but do we remember it? This is the big point here. God has to continually tell his people, "Remember, remember, remember, remember." And if you were to look at the Bible, look at the number of words where it says remember, it's constant. "Remember I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt." "Remember I am the Lord your God, besides me, there is no other." "Do this in remembrance of me." He even tells them, he gives us communion to continually remember him.

My kids are at the age now where they can pour their own cereal. This is pretty awesome. Okay. When you hit that. Well, not all of them now. Oh my gosh. Just had a new one? But the other three, pour their own cereal. Pour their own milk. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Right? This is amazing. Cause I don't have to wake up to pour cereal. Because once I'm up, I'm up. So they always take care of themselves. Especially my older daughter, she helps. And so every day I have to come out and I always see the sort of aftermath of what took place at them pouring their own cereal. And that includes Cheerios all over the floor. It includes boxes thrown everywhere, milk spilled everywhere. And it includes the bowls just where they left them. Right. It's like, what are we doing here, kids? Okay. I'm failing as a dad. And so what I have to do is I have to, every morning I have to say, "Hey, remember to bring your bowl to the sink.



Remember to bring your bowl to the sink." And what do you think a six-year-old kid says, or an eight year old kid says, when I say, "Hey, remember to bring your bowl to the sink." What do you think they say? "I know." No, you don't know because if you knew you would do it. Right? You don't know. Here's what I actually say to them. I know you know, but you don't remember, and we're not any better than our young little children. Doxa, I know you're a smart church. That's what I've learned about you from your leaders. I also know that there are top-notch people in here far smarter than I am, and maybe even far more worthy to be preaching a sermon. Doxa, I know you know God's promises, but I also know that you don't remember them all the time. The message here for us is not just to know God, it's to remember him. There's one key promise hidden in this last verse, and I'm going to reread verse four for you as we wrap our time together. It says this, "by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sin." I want to highlight the word partakers in the phrase, partakers of the divine nature. What does that mean? These are such powerful words. I mean this, these four verses are packed. We could go a year on just these, trying to understand and remember what God is trying to tell us. And these are such hopeful words and promises for us. There are little literal characteristics of God that we, as we grow closer to God in his knowledge, begin to inherit. We get to become partakers of this new nature. And this new nature helps people like us overcome the corruption in the world because of sin. That's great news. So for those of us lost right now, sort of second guessing our place in this world, those of us lost in this digital Babylon, trying to make something of ourselves by climbing the corporate ladder. Those of us lost, tired, anxious, overworked, and helpless. Without this divine nature, the world is helpless. It is helpless. The reason you feel helpless if you're here and you're not a Christian, is because it is a helpless world and we've designed digital Babylon to project as if, if we just follow a formula, we'll be able to overcome the world in its difficulties and its hardships via a blog post, a specific social media strategy, or maybe a new job or a new city. And the truth is, it's helpless. This world is helpless for those without divine nature. Those of us who are believers and have access to the divine nature and don't utilize it, you feel helpless because you are helpless. Without tapping into God's divine nature, we are helpless. And that's why Peter writes this letter. And that's why he writes this chapter. If you're confused and you're looking for the cliff notes version of what we just talked about, this is what Peter actually says. "As I go out into the world, as I go out of the world, as I become executed, you need to remember two things about this world. You need to, you must long to know God at a really deep level, and you have to remember his promises. And if you do these two things, the holy spirit is going to grant you a special nature, that's going to help you navigate this crazy world until Jesus comes back." That's what Peter's trying to say. So friends, be formed by God. This world is going to be overwhelming, if we're formed by our screens or anything else. It's going to take work, effort, and intentionality that we're going to unpack over the next few weeks.

You know, as I was reading this passage, one last thing, God could have definitely redeemed his people. Died on the cross, rose three days later, without allowing us to be partakers in his nature. He didn't have to do that. I'm thinking there's probably a way he could have saved us by the power of the Holy Spirit without giving us a share in his own character. But he did. And that

character is what enables us and empowers us as we know him through grace and peace to live better lives. So press into Jesus. Let's pray.

Father, I'm praying for grace and peace over us this morning. It's easy to say, but it's so hard to do, Lord, and we're going to rely on you. Do all the work for us, Lord, and grant us supernatural peace in this moment. Lord Jesus, would you give us a heart that's after you, that wants to grow in our knowledge of you, not just Bible knowledge, but in encounter knowledge and experiential knowledge, that deeply desires to know you and who you are. And Lord, for those of us who feel lost without you, and we feel helpless, Lord, would you gently remind them and nudge them in the direction that you are a good God who loves us and that they know you and remember your promises to them that they can have grace and peace as well. In Jesus' name. Amen.