

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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II PETER 1 VS 4

“KNOWING AND GROWING “

PART II

LAST WEEK WE LEARNED THAT FALSE TEACHERS WERE ON THE PROWL IN THE CHURCHES AT ASIA MINOR. IN AN EFFORT TO GET THE SAINTS IN THESE CHURCHES TO DETECT THESE FALSE TEACHERS PETER DOES NOT START WITH THE FALSE BUT HE STARTS WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUTH. THE BEST WAY TO DETECT THE FALSE IS TO KNOW THE TRUTH. PETER OPENS HIS MAKING THREE IMPORTANT AFFIRMATIONS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. LAST WEEK WE LEARNED THE FIRST AFFIRMATION PETER MADE WAS:

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BEGINS WITH FAITH (VS 1-4)

1. **FAITH IN A PERSON** (VS 1-2)
2. **FAITH INVOLVES GOD’S POWER** (VS 3)

THIS WEEK PETER GIVES US THE NEXT FACT ABOUT THIS FAITH IN VERSE NUMBER 4:

3. **FAITH INVOLVES GOD’S PROMISES** (VS 4) GOD HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN US ALL THAT WE NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS BUT HE HAS ALSO GIVEN US HIS WORD TO ENABLE US TO DEVELOP THIS LIFE AND GODLINESS. NOTICE THAT HE REFERS TO THESE PROMISES AS

GREAT – BECAUSE THEY COME FROM A GREAT GOD AND LEAD TO A GREAT LIFE

PRECIOUS – BECAUSE THEIR VALUE IS BEYOND CALCULATION

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE DIVINE NATURE?

A. **BELIEVE ON JESUS CHRIST** - THEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD USES THE WORD OF GOD TO IMPART THE LIFE AND NATURE OF GOD WITHIN. A BODY SHARES THE NATURE OF ITS PARENTS, AND A PERSON BORN OF GOD, SHARES THE DIVINE NATURE OF GOD. THE LOST SINNER IS DEAD, BUT THE CHRISTIAN IS ALIVE BECAUSE HE SHARES THE DIVINE NATURE. THE LOST SINNER IS DECAYING OF HIS CORRUPT NATURE, BUT THE CHRISTIAN CAN EXPERIENCE A DYNAMIS LIFE OF GODLINESS BECAUSE HE HAS GOD’S DIVINE NATURE IN WITHIN. MANKIND IS UNDER THE BONDAGE OF CORRUPTION (ROM 8 21), BUT THE BELEIVER SHARE THE FREEDOM AND GROWTH THAT IS PART OF POSSESSING THE DIVINE NATURE.

FACTS ABOUT NATURE

NATURE DETERMINES:

APPETITE - THE PIG WANTS SLOP AND THE DOG WILL EAT ITS OWN VOMIT (2 PETER 2 VS 22) BUT THE SHEEP DESIRES GREEN PASTURES

BEHAVIOR - AN EAGLE FLIES BECAUSE IT HAS AN EAGLES NATURE, A DOLPHIN SWIMS BECAUSE THAT IS THE NATURE OF A DOLPHIN

ENVIRONMENT - SQUIRRELS CLIMB TREES, MOLES BURROW UNDERGROUND, AND TROUT SWIM IN THE WATER

ASSOCIATION – LIONS TRAVEL IN PRIDES, SHEEP IN FLOCKS, AND FISH IN SCHOOLS

SO, IF NATURE DETERMINES APPETITE, AND WE HAVE GOD’S NATURE WITHIN THEN WE OUGHT TO HAVE:

AN APPETITE FOR – **THAT WHICH IS PURE AND HOLY**

OUR BEHAVIOR – **SHOULD BE LIKE THAT OF OUR FATHER**

ENVIRONMENT – **LIVE IN A SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT THAT SUITED TO OUR NATURE**

ASSOCIATE – **WITH THAT WHICH IS TRUE TO OUR NATURE** (2 COR 6 VS 14) THE ONLY NORMAL, FRUIT BEARING LIFE FOR THE CHILD OF GOD IS A GODLY LIFE.

NOTE: BECAUSE WE POSSESS THIS DIVINE NATURE, WE HAVE “**COMPLETELY ESCAPED**” THE DEFILEMENT AND DECAY OF THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD. IF **WE** FEED THE NEW NATURE THE NOURISHMENT OF THE WORD, THEN WE WILL HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE GARBAGE OF THE WORLD.

BUT , IF WE “**MAKE PROVISION FOR THE FLESH**” (ROM 13 VS 14) OUR SINFUL NATURE WILL LUST AFTER THE “**OLD SINS**” (2 PETER 1 VS 9) AND WE WILL DISOBEY GOD. GODLY LIVING IS A RESULT OF CULTIVATING THE NEW NATURE WITHIN.

II. FAITH RESULTS IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH (1 VS 5-7) WHERE THERE IS LIFE,

THERE MUST BE GROWTH. THE NEW BIRTH IS NOT THE END; IT IS THE BEGGINNING. GOD GIVES HIS CHILDREN ALL THAT THEY NEED TO LIVE GODLY LIVES, BUT HIS CHILDREN MUST APPLY THEMSELVES AND BE DILIGENT TO USE THE “**MEANS OF GRACE**” HE HAS PROVIDED. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS NOT AUTOMATIC. IT REQUIRES:

1. **COOPERATION WITH GOD**

AND THE APPLICATION OF:

2. **SPIRITUAL DILIGENCE**

3. DISCIPLINE

"THE SEVEN CHARACTERISTICE OF A GODLY LIFE "

NOTE: WE DEVELOPE ONE QUALITY AS WE EXERCISE ANOTHER QUALITY. THESE GRACES RELATE TO EACH OTHER THE WAY THE BRANCH RELATE TO THE TRUNK AND THE TWIGS TO THE BRANCH. LIKE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (GAL 5 VS 22-23), THESE QUALITIES GROW OUT OF A VITAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR A CHRISTIAN TO LET GO AND LET GOD, AS THOUGH SPIRITUAL GROWTH WERE GODS WORK ALONE. LITERALLY, PETER WROTE, "MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BRING ALONGSIDE. " THE FATHER AND THE CHILD MUST WORK TOGETHER.

VIRTUE -

FAITH -

KNOWLEDGE -

TEMPERANCE -

PATIENCE -

GODLINESS

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

LOVE