

Beautiful Together

2 Peter 1:1-15

SESSION TWO Beautiful Unique & United 1 Peter 1:3-11 ESV

Verse 3. His divine power – the essence that emanates from and through GOD has made everything available to us that we need. **EVERYTHING** needed to live a flourishing, active, and vigorous God-honoring life, HE has given us. **ALL things needed** to equip the believer to serve.

Whether we take possession and use those gifts is up to us.

We'll be held accountable for what has been made available to us and how we've used it. Luke 12:48
"To whom much was given much will be required."

Verses 3b-4: God has given us His commitment of **goodness to come** that is of great value and especially dear. It is magnificent and exceedingly great. We can share IN and WITH HIS divine nature because we have ESCAPED from the destructive, alienated-from-God nature of this world. ESCAPED? We still live IN this corrupt world, but we are no longer citizens of this world. We're citizens of God's eternal kingdom.

Verse 5. Because of this, we are to make every effort (earnest diligence, don't delay-make haste, strive for) to supplement our faith with (like vitamins to make us spiritually healthier—a rich supply of spiritual nourishment!)

Verses 5-7. Peter' list of faith supplements: **virtue** (moral excellence), **knowledge** (insight and increased understanding), **self-control** (you rule your responses, they do not rule you), steadfastness (constant, enduring, unswerving, persevering, and purposeful), **godliness** (reverence, respect, pursuing holiness), **brotherly affection** (a brotherly relationship, the love of siblings), **love** - AGAPE love used for: The love of God toward humankind (Rom. 5:8). The love of God toward Christ (John 15:10, 17:26). The love of Christ toward men (John 15:9, 14; Romans 8:35).

VERSE 8 ESV. If you have these qualities and they are increasing they will prevent you from becoming unfruitful, idle, or lazy. **WHY IF?** God makes them available, **BUT** we have to accept and exercise them – like a muscle that goes unused, it will atrophy – so will the qualities if unused. **AND** these qualities in will continue to grow as long as we live. **The more you know, the more you should grow!** No growth is a sign that the head knowledge has not impacted your heart.

Note V. 8 - Increasing means to superabound, to exist in abundance, to increase, and be multiplied.

VERSE 9. Peter say if you don't have these qualities, you might as well be blind – your vision is blurry. You've forgotten that you were redeemed – wash clean. You've reverted to your old habits. You've set aside your clean garments and put on the old.

Paul challenged the Ephesians (Eph. 4:22-24)

- **Put off your old self** – that belongs to you old, corrupt life, **be renewed** in your mind, **put on the new self**, which is made to look like Christ.
- When these Faith Supplements (the qualities above) aren't demonstrated in your life, it's like you've forgotten that you were saved. You have forgotten your **identity in Christ Jesus**.

Forgetting is easy! And it's not uncommon among believers – it's one of the reasons Peter has written both of his letters. He said don't get mired so deep in the ways of the world, that you forget who you are.

You're citizens of a higher kingdom – a royal priesthood. Don't try to get comfortable in this earthly kingdom. You were not made to straddle two worlds. It's a balancing act that cannot be achieved – it will eventually leave you flat on the floor.

VERSE 10. Be diligent – put forth serious effort – be certain that you know what you believe and that you are practicing (preparing, doing everything necessary) to live a life that exhibit these qualities. If you are exercising your faith and demonstrating the qualities of faith in your life, you're going to stand strong. And when you stumble, as we all do, you will ask forgiveness, God helps you up, brushes you off and tell to get back on the path and into the good fight of faith.

Peter is not asking his readers to doubt their salvation. He's saying if you are who you say you are – a believer and follower of Christ Jesus, then your life should bear witness to that truth. If there is no fruit, no evidence of your faith, AND you're not convicted by that lack of evidence in your life or you're not uncomfortable that God seems distant, then you need to reexamine Who and what you say you believe.

None of us is perfect – the best is far from it, **BUT there should be some evidence of belief** – proof of a change and new life in you – a change in your point of view regarding your relationship with God - if nothing has changed, you need to have a serious conversation with God about your relationship.

True faith produces evidence – it may be very small, it may progress slowly, but there is change at work inside the new believer. This isn't salvation by works, it is salvation evidenced by works.

VERSE 11. “For in this way there will be **richly** (abundantly, copiously, bounteous, overflowing; same word used in Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”) provided for you an entrance into the **eternal** (without beginning or end) kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Maybe You were thinking that verses 3-11 are very focused on the individual. And to a large degree they are. Certainly, focused on the spiritual growth of the individual. So, you may ask, where does “*beautiful together*” come into this picture?

BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER

As believers, our salvation is through Faith in Jesus Christ alone.
He is our LORD and Savior, and He is the common bond that unites all believers.
And, we are each unique in our relationship and walk with Christ

- We are each uniquely equipped and purposely called to be a contributing member of the Church of Christ Jesus – that is beautiful together. (1 Corinthians 12)

Our differences make us stronger and more beautiful as we come together, IF we are growing and practicing obedience in every area of life:

- To encourage one another (Ephesians 4:29)
- Challenge one another (Hebrews 10:24)
- Help & comfort in times of trouble, illness, loss (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
- Create accountability between one another (James 5:16)
- Serve one another and serve others together (Phil 2:3-8)
- Worship Together Hebrews 12:28, 13:15; 1 Corinthians 14:15
- Pray For One Another – Partner in Prayer (John 17:1-26, Colossians 1:9, 1 Timothy 2:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 2 Thessalonians 1:11, Matthew 18:20)
- Love One Another (1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 3:11, 1 John 3:23, 1 John 4:11-12)

CONCLUSION:

We are to **love** one another. **Care** for one another. **Serve** one another. **Pray** for one another. And even **Carry** one another in times of hurt, hardship, trials, and deep distress. We each have a role to play.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.

When we are walking in obedience, loving and serving God, we bring the beauty of who God made us to be to the fellowship of believers—each believer a unique and singularly gifted contributor to the body of Christ. All contributors joining one another to become Beautiful Together.

A single rose is a thing of beauty but add that rose to dozens of mixed flowers – each beautiful in its own way – and you will create a bouquet of overwhelming beauty.