

Standing on the promises...

2 Peter 1 (NLT)

“This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to **you who share the same precious faith** we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. By His divine power, **God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.** We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the one who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence. And because of His glory and excellence, **He has given us great and precious promises.** These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires...”

Three quick points

- Our faith is a gift from God
 - We love Him because He first loved us

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- We already have **EVERYTHING** we need to live a godly life
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- God promises...
 - And these promises enable us to access what He has for us
 - And to live a godly life

2 Peter 1 (NKJV)

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins...”

Two quick points

- If we don't have the things we are going to look at, you are either shortsighted or blind

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- If we don't have the things we are going to look at, you are either shortsighted or blind
- If we don't have these things, we have forgotten that our sins have been forgiven, we are in the process of being redeemed and God is restoring us

So what things should we have?

- Faith
 - Do we have it?
 - Who is it in?
 - How does it change us?

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“in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with **the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it**”

Is our trust in God combined with the
holy fervor of faith in Him?

So what things should we have?

- Virtue
 - Holy, right, pure, noble
 - Thought, feeling, actions

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In biblical times, this also referred to evidence of God's miracle power

Does my faith combine with virtue so that there is evidence of God's miracle power in my life and the lives around me?

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- Knowledge
 - We strive to understand what God wants from us
 - What thoughts please Him?
 - What actions please Him?
 - What motives please Him?

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It goes beyond head knowledge to heart knowledge - a passionate desire to know what is morally right and pleases God.

Do I spend more time asking God to help me understand/live in faith or rebelling or repenting for actions that I keep repeating?

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 - Not God controlling me, but me willingly choosing to control myself
 - Exercising the ability to do or not to do

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To temper something is to transform it in such a way that it is better able to resist pressure

Once I know what God wants of me
or from me, do I choose to do it?

So what things should we have?

- Perseverance
 - Steadfast
 - Ability to endure
 - Possessing patience

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 - Steadfast
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“In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings”

My faith is in God's miraculous power.

I know what He expects and I choose to live that way regardless of my circumstances.

So what things should we have?

- Godliness (holiness)
 - Reverent to God
 - Respectful to God

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The change which happens in us is demonstrated to those around us by the way we respond to situations and circumstances.

Godliness and holiness is only possible if
we spend time with God -
worshipping, praying, learning...
Otherwise, we are simply modifying
behavior instead of being transformed
into His likeness.

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 - Brothers and sisters in Christ
 - But also family, neighbors, co-workers, strangers

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- Brothers and sisters in Christ

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“In the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren (those who belong to Christ)

All that came before in this passage is foundational to the ability to love my brothers and sisters in Christ as He wants me to...

So what things should we have?

- Love
 - Agape love
 - Involves interaction, not concepts
 - Involves application, not theory

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Love of this magnitude mirrors the love Christ has for us - sacrificial, communal, real

“They’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

2 Peter 1 (NLT)

“So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

The promises of God...

- God promises throughout His word that this kind of life is possible

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- Do we know in our hearts we are living this way?

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- If we ask others around us, will they agree we live this way?

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- God promises throughout His word that this kind of life is possible
- Do we know in our hearts we are living this way?
- If we ask others around us, will they agree we live this way?
- If not, maybe it's time to revisit the promises of God...