

SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

Part 5

2 PETER

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2 Peter 1:5 AMPC

*5 For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], **employ every effort in exercising your faith** to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] knowledge (intelligence),*

2 Peter 1:5 KJV

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Because of all the God given blessings (in verses 3-4), the believer cannot be either indifferent, apathetic or self-satisfied. Such an abundance of divine grace calls for total dedication.

1 Corinthians 9:19 AMPC

19 For although I am free in every way from anyone's control, I have made myself a **bond servant** to everyone, so that I might gain the more [for Christ].

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 AMPC

19 Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own,

20 **You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own]**. So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body.

1 Corinthians 15:10 AMPC

*10 But by the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God I am what I am, and **His grace toward me was not [found to be] for nothing (fruitless and without effect)**. In fact, I worked harder than all of them [the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favor and blessing) of God which was with me.*

Yes, Paul was considered an apostle; while not one of the original Twelve, he was a chosen instrument of Jesus, receiving a direct commission on the road to Damascus and recognized by the early church as the "Apostle to the Gentiles". His apostleship was based on his personal encounter with the resurrected Christ, a key qualification for an apostle, and he was accepted by the other apostles as a fellow missionary, establishing his authority and securing his influential place in Christian history.

The common thread for "the apostles" is that Jesus, the Messiah, the Resurrected Lord personally commissioned them and appeared to the twelve just as He did to Paul.

Bible passages that demonstrate Paul was an apostle include his own claims in his letters, such as 1 Corinthians 1:1, Romans 1:1, and Galatians 1:1, where he states he was "called to be an apostle... by the will of God". Other passages show the confirmation of his apostleship by the early church leaders, like Peter in 2 Peter 3:15-16, and by the Holy Spirit during his early ministry, as recorded in Acts 13:2.

Back to 2 Peter 1:5

“Giving all diligence”: That is, making maximum effort. The Christian life is not lived to the honor of God without effort. Even though God has poured His divine power into the believer, the Christian is required to make every disciplined effort alongside of what God has done (Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:28-29).

“Add to your faith virtue”: goodness or righteousness. It also came to mean that quality of life which made someone stand out as excellent. It never meant cloistered excellence (secluded or isolated ex: monastery), or excellence of attitude, **but excellence which is demonstrated in life.** Peter is writing about the power that performs deeds of excellence.

“Knowledge”: This means understanding, correct insight, truth properly comprehended and applied. This virtue involves a diligent study and pursuit of truth in the Word of God. We should earnestly try to please God in all that we do.

"To be diligent in our work" would mean that we are totally dedicated to the task at hand. We should not only be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word as well.

The walk of a Christian must be virtuous. We must walk Holy before our Lord. To walk virtuous would mean that we had determined in our heart to do right before God. To be virtuous, without the knowledge of what God's will is, is impossible. To walk in the will of God, we must know what His will is. We learn what His will is by studying His Word.

2 Peter 1:6 AMPC

6 And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety),

2 Peter 1:6 KJV

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

When we walk in the knowledge of the Word of God, we will be temperate in all things. **"Temperance"**, in this instance, means self-control. It also means moderately.

The way I like to say this is, "let the Holy Spirit or the Word control your flesh". Patience is a lesson hard learned. Patience comes through tribulation. **"Self-control"**: Literally "holding oneself in."

A Christian (a follower or imitator of Jesus) is to control the flesh, the passions and the bodily desires, rather than allowing themselves to be controlled by them (1 Cor. 9:27; Gal. 5:23).

1 Corinthians 9:27 AMPC

27 But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].

Galatians 5:22-25 AMPC

22 **But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is** love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness,

23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), **self-control (self-restraint, continence)**. Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].

24 And **those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh** (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires.

25 If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **[If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]**

“Patience”: Patience or endurance is doing what is right or righteous, not giving into temptation or trial. Perseverance is that spiritual staying power that will die before it gives in. It is the virtue which can endure, not simply with resignation, but with a vibrant hope. Turning your will over to God and allowing Him to have control of your life, leads to godliness.

Note: Endurance is the ability to sustain prolonged effort in a difficult situation, while perseverance is the active, steadfast pursuit of a goal despite obstacles and setbacks. Endurance focuses on the power to last, whereas perseverance involves changing and growing through the challenge to achieve success. You endure a marathon; you persevere to win it.

2 Peter 1:7 AMPC

7 And in [exercising] godliness [develop] brotherly affection, and in [exercising] brotherly affection [develop] Christian love.

2 Peter 1:7 KJV

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

“Brotherly kindness”: Literally brotherly affection, mutual sacrifice for one another (1 John 4:20). Charity is love (see 1 Cor. 13 which is the love chapter). All of this is explaining the growing in grace that a Christian must do.

1 John 4:20 AMPC

20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates (detests, abominates) his brother [in Christ], he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, Whom he has not seen.

21 And this command (charge, order, injunction) we have from Him: that he who loves God shall love his brother [[d]believer] also.

“Charity”: in the passage here (2 Peter 1:7), charity was translated from the word "agape", which means a special love. It is like the love of God. It is love not because of what you can do for me, but love wanting nothing in return.

2 Peter 1:8 AMPC

8 For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep [you] from being idle or unfruitful unto the [full personal] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

2 Peter 1:8 KJV

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Neither be barren”: The meaning to be inactive, indolent, and empty (Titus 1:12; James 2:20-22). With these virtues that are increasing in one’s life (verses 5-7), a Christian will not be neither useless nor ineffective.

“Nor unfruitful”: Meaning unproductive (Matt. 13:22; Eph. 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:14; Jude 12).

Ephesians 5:10-14 AMPC

10 And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him].

11 Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of or mention the things that [such people] practice in secret.

Verse 13 and 14 continued next page...

13 But when anything is exposed and reproved by the light, it is made visible and clear; and where everything is visible and clear there is light.

14 Therefore He says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light.

When these Christian qualities are not present in a believer's life (verses 5-7), they will be indistinguishable from an ***evildoer*** or a **superficial believer or "christian"**. But when these qualities are increasing in a Christian's life, there is the manifestation of the "divine nature" within the believer. If these things be in you, you are full of Christ or Jesus and in the process, you have taken on the nature of Jesus Christ.

When you take Jesus (the Word - John 1:1) in His fullness like what is spoken of here, you have taken on the mind of Christ. You are allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you all things.

The name "Lord Jesus Christ" means that you have accepted Him as your Savior and your Lord. You also realize, He is the Anointed One of God, the Messiah.

2 Peter 1:9 AMPC

*9 For whoever **lacks these qualities is blind, [spiritually] shortsighted**, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious [to the fact] that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

2 Peter 1:9 KJV

*9 But he that lacketh **these things** is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

These “things” are those mentioned (in verses 5-7).

“Blind and cannot see afar off”: A professing Christian who is missing the virtues mentioned above is, therefore, unable to discern their true spiritual condition, and as a result can have no assurance of their salvation.

“Forgotten”: The failure to diligently pursue spiritual virtues produces spiritual amnesia. Such a person, unable to discern their spiritual condition, will have no confidence about their profession of faith. They may be saved and possess all the blessing of verses 3-4, but without the excellences of verses 5-7, they will live in doubt and fear.

It is a very dangerous thing not to grow in God. **The one-time experience of salvation is not enough.** We are either growing in Christ, or we are going backwards.

Notice, the word ***“old”*** connected to sins. To live as the world lives after you are saved will draw you away from your salvation. Salvation is a daily walk through life, growing each day more like Jesus. We can be blinded by the world, if we are not careful, and forget the forgiveness that we have received in Christ.

2 Peter 1:10 AMPC

*10 Because of this, brethren, be all the more solicitous and eager **to make sure** (to ratify, to strengthen, to make steadfast) your calling and election; for if you do this, you will never stumble or fall.*

2 Peter 1:10 KJV

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

“Give diligence to make your calling and election sure”: This means to make things stable, steadfast, and firm. “Making sure” implies a legal guarantee for an object or item. The seller makes a guarantee to the buyer, and the guarantee must be reviewed if a third-party should try to claim the item. By following Peter's instructions to grow in grace and knowledge, all believers are assured our position in Christ, and can stand firm in our calling.

In other words, the believer who pursues the spiritual qualities mentioned above guarantees to themselves by spiritual fruit that they are sure in the salvation. (Rom. 8:30; 1 Peter 2:21), and chosen (1 Peter 1:2).

“Never fall”: As the Christian pursues the qualities enumerated by Peter (verses 5-7), and sees that their life is useful and fruitful (verse 8), they will not stumble into doubt, despair, fear, or questioning, but enjoy assurance that they are saved. When we do what is right or righteous (habitually) we will not fall from the promise of eternity.

John 8:12 AMPC

12 Once more Jesus addressed the crowd. He said, I am the Light of the world. **He who follows Me** will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life.

1 John 1:7 AMPC

7 **But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light**, as He [Himself] is in the Light, **we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations].

This is just saying, you must make up your mind to walk with Jesus and never wander away from that habitual walk or way of living. If I am in Jesus, and He is in me, I cannot fall.

2 Peter 1:11 AMPC

11 Thus there will be richly and abundantly provided for you **entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**.

2 Peter 1:11 KJV

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

“Entrance ... ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom”: Dedicated Christians, who grow and become fruitful, cultivating through God’s provision and power the prime qualities of faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and brotherly love, will never stumble or fall.

Peter is being very encouraging and descriptive in these verses to bring joy to the weary Christian’s heart. Just as it was regarding feelings, emotions, family struggles, financial difficulties, government and “religious” persecution in Peter’s day... God is aware of what is taking place and is giving you and the subscription on what we must do to be ready and stay strong in our faith thru Peter today.

James 2:26 AMPC

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.

An entrance into heaven is the hope and reality for a Christian who lives a faithful, fruitful life here on earth. Peter’s point is that a Christian who pursues the list virtues (verses 5-7), will not only enjoy assurance in the present, but a full, rich reward in the future life (1 Cor. 4:5; Rev. 22:12).

Revelation 22:12 AMPC

*12 Behold, I am coming soon, and **I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit.***

1 Corinthians 4:5 AMPC

5 So do not make any hasty or premature judgments before the time when the Lord comes [again], for He will both bring to light the secret things that are [now hidden] in darkness and disclose and expose the [secret] aims (motives and purposes) of hearts. Then every man will receive his [due] commendation from God.

Note: _____

A full reward awaits the faithful, godly believer in Christ's everlasting kingdom (Eph. 2:6-7).

Ephesians 2:6-7 AMPC

6 And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

7 He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in [His] kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus.

There is only one way to heaven and it is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 AMPC

6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.

Daniel 7:27 AMPC

27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions shall serve and obey Him.

Jesus opened the way for all who would believe, when He gave His body on the cross. The door to heaven and the throne of God was opened, when the veil of the temple was torn from the top to the bottom.

Matthew 27:51-54 AMPC

51 And at once the curtain of the [a]sanctuary of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth shook and the rocks were split.

52 The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep in death were raised [to life];

53 And coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

54 When the centurion and those who were with him keeping watch over Jesus observed the earthquake and all that was happening, they were terribly frightened and filled with awe, and said, Truly this was God's Son!

Romans 10:8-15 AMPC

8 But what does it say? The Word (God's message in Christ) is near you, on your lips and in your heart; that is, the Word (the message, the basis and object) of faith which we preach,

9 Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord **and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth)** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 **For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God),** and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.

11 The Scripture says, **No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed.**

12 [No one] for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. The same Lord is Lord over all [of us] and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him [in faith].

13 For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord **[invoking Him as Lord] will be saved.**

14 But how are people to call upon Him Whom they have not believed [in Whom they have no faith, on Whom they have no reliance]? And how are they to believe in Him [adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him] of Whom they have never heard? **And how are they to hear without a preacher?**

15 And how can men [be expected to] preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings! **[How welcome is the coming of those who preach the good news of His good things!]**

Let's bring this back to the words of Peter...

2 Peter 1:12-15 AMPC

12 So I intend always to remind you about these things,
although indeed you know them and are firm in the truth that [you] now [hold].

13 I think it right, *as long as I am in this tabernacle (tent, body),* **to stir you up by way of remembrance,**

14 Since I know that the laying aside of this body of mine will come speedily, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

15 Moreover, I will diligently endeavor [to see to it] that [even] after my departure (decease) you may be able at all times to call these things to mind.

Note: _____



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