

Metro Women's Bible Study

2 Peter 1:1-4

Lesson 1

In his first letter, Peter emphasized *the grace of God* as the recipients of the letter faced trials from sources without the body of Christ. In his second epistle, Peter's emphasis is on *the knowledge of God* as the recipients faced trials from sources within the body of Christ. Peter's desire for believers is that the *grace and peace of God be multiplied* in our lives. In this lesson, we learn that God's *grace and peace* are a fruit of knowing Jesus. May this lesson be a fresh reminder of all our Lord Jesus has accomplished for His Children.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 1:1-4

1. Read through 2 Peter 1:1-4 two times using your Observation Worksheet and another translation if you desire.

2. 2 Peter 1:1-4 is one section/paragraph. List below the subjects(s) covered in this section.

a. How would you title this section?

OPTIONAL: From the list below, record the key words and their symbol (which you have chosen) on the Key Word and Symbol Chart.

Key Words: *God, Jesus, knowledge, and glory*

OPTIONAL: Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 1:1-4. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them. You do not need to mark every word that refers Them – only those that you feel are significant.

3. As we read the greeting of the letter, who is the author? See verse 1

a. What is the substance of the request of Peter's prayer? See verse 2

b. What is the measure of the request in his prayer? See verse 2

4. *Simon Peter* identifies himself as the author of this letter. What words does he use to describe himself?

Here we see two sides of the Christian life: his general relationship as a servant and his special position as an apostle. It is worth noting the order of the two!

DAY TWO: Read 2 Peter 1:1-2

1. Look up the word **bondservant** in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Bondservant-

2. Read the paragraph below and answer the following questions.

- a. What stood out to you about the life of a bondservant?
- b. Would others be able to call you a Bondservant by the way you live your life? Explain.

Doulos speaks of submission to one's master The doulos had no life of his own, no will of his own, no purpose of his own and no plan of his own. All was subject to his master. The bondservant's every thought, breath, and effort was subject to the will of his master. In sum, the picture of a bondservant is one who is absolutely surrendered and totally devoted to his master. What a picture of Peter relationship to his Lord! What an example for all believers of every age to emulate!

By using doulos Peter is saying "I am a slave to the Lord Jesus Christ. I am absolutely sold out to His will. I am willing to do whatever He tells me to do. I am willing to say whatever He tells me to say. I am willing to go wherever He leads me. I am a man who has made a choice. I am going to serve Him for all eternity."

3. Peter an apostle of the Lord Jesus was a man with authority. Yet a bondservant has little, if any, authority. Why do you think an *apostle* should also be a *bondservant*?

4. From Verse 1, who are the recipients of the letter?

5. In 1 Peter 1:1 believers are defined by their **geographical** location. In 2 Peter 1:1 believers are defined by their **spiritual** position. Record what their position is from 2 Peter 1:1b.

a. What have all believers *obtained*?

b. How is this *faith* described?

c. How is it *obtained*?

6. Look up the definition of the word **precious** from your Concordance or dictionary.

Precious-

a. List some synonyms for the word *precious*.

b. In what way is your *faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ *precious* to you?

7. Consider the **cost** of this *precious faith* by reading 1 Peter 1:18-19. How does this increase your appreciation of this *precious faith*?

"Our faith is esteemed in God's eyes as equal to that of the great apostle Peter. What practical import does this have in our everyday life? If this is true of our faith, why is the Christian life of many believers in America so "bland & anemic"? Faith is like a muscle. We must exercise our faith for it to "grow" to its full potential which is that we would be "complete in Christ"

8. Peter sends greetings of *grace and peace* to these believers. According to 2 Peter 1:2, how is *grace and peace multiplied to you*?

a. The word **knowledge** is a key word in this letter. This is the first of many times that Peter will use this word in this letter. How have you experienced this **grace and peace** through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord?

DAY THREE: Read 2 Peter 1:3

1. 2 Peter 1:3 is a powerful verse. Write it phrase by phrase below.

2. This is a powerful passage. How does this verse speak to you about God's provision for living the Christian life?

a. It is important to know that God desires for us to incorporate His Word to our lives in practical ways. Have you applied this promise to your day to day life? Explain.

b. Look up the word **power** in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Power-

Here in 2 Peter, dunamis describes that power which is uniquely God's and proceeds from Him. Jesus by this same inherent power presently "upholds all things by the word of His power" (note Hebrews 1:3). If He by this same power is holding all things together, can He not "hold my life together"? Can He can truly provide me with everything I need to weather whatever storm might come, to scale whatever mountain obstacle might be thrown in my path. Indeed He is able.

3. Look up the word **has given** in your Concordance and write out the translation. How does this speak to you?

Has given-

4. Comment on the words **all things** in this verse.

5. Look up the word *godliness* in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Godliness-

a. *Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness* (NASB). Meditate on this powerful truth again. In light of the wonderful gift of God for the believer, why do you think there are so many defeated Christians who are not living a *life of godliness*?

6. When you are born into the family of God by faith in Christ, you are born complete. What does Colossians 2:9-10 say that verifies this?

a. Like a newborn baby, the Christian is equipped with all they need. Our responsibility is to grow in what He has given us. Fruit is the by product of an abiding relationship with the Lord. In what ways have you grown since becoming a believer?

b. What areas would you like to see more growth?

7. According to the last phrase of 2 Peter 1:3, what has God *called us by*?

a. *Glory* here means to be like Christ; *virtue* refers to moral goodness and has to do with excellence and courage. What does this say to you about your walk?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 1:4

1. God has given us **all** that we need for *life and godliness*. According to 2 Peter 1:4a, what else has been given to us?

a. What do the words *exceedingly great* and *precious* say to you about these *promises*?

2. According to 2 Peter 1:4b, why have believers been given these *promises*?

Might be- (1096) (ginomai) means to come into existence. Yes, we are complete in Christ but here Peter is emphasizing the process of sanctification, continually growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we might be all that we have been redeemed to be in Christ.

a. It is God's plan that every Christian become like Christ. What does Romans 8:29 teach about this?

Romans 8:29

3. Christ has done His part and we have our part. What are we told to do in Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:8-10? Explain what these mean in practical ways.

Ephesians 4:22-24 ²²That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Colossians 3:8-10 ⁸But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ¹⁰and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

God has promised that the more we put on Christ, the more we will become like Him. We make this promise a reality by reading the word, studying Christ as He is revealed in it, and following Him. As we do this, the Holy Spirit changes us into His likeness from one degree of glory to another. Because of the promise of the new birth (1Pe 1:3), the promise of God's protecting power (1Pe 1:5), and the promise of God's enabling power (2 Pe 1:3), believers can “participate in the divine nature,” and become more like Christ.

4. There are over 30,000 promises in the Bible. Share some *precious promises* from God's Word that are *exceedingly great* to you.

*****These promises are magnificent because they come from a magnificent God and they lead to a magnificent life! Ohhhh, sisters, don't you crave that?**

Application: Do you search the Scriptures for God's golden promises like a miner seeking for precious gold? Beloved sisters, don't be apathetic, lazy and prone to procrastinate or you will miss out on the boundless provision of promises that God has granted us in Christ Jesus. God's promises exceed anything, any problem, any affliction, any trial, that you will ever face dear friend!

Piper says, Very practically I think this means we must day by day go to the Word of God and search for great promises. Fix one or two in your mind and hold them there before you all day. And use them to overcome temptation to sin and to incite you to daring acts of righteousness and love. Selah~

It is summertime as I write this and I have started my Journal of Golden Promises. I need to be reminded of them and have them before me everyday! My day like many of yours brings about many different circumstances that can rob me of my focus from peace in Christ to panic or fear. I can't tell you how many times His Words have comforted my heart and stilled my turbulent emotions! I hope you start your Journal of Golden Promises today!

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 1:4

1. The final phrase of verse four provides hope for the believer. Write what 2 Peter 1:4c says.

a. Look up the word **escaped** in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Escaped-

2. You dear Sister, have ESCAPED by the power of God from your former life of corruption through lust! All Praise to the Father. Amen? As Christians it is part of our inheritance in Christ that we *escape the corruption that is in the world through lust*. Share what it means to you that you have *escaped this corruption*. Think back on what you escaped from.

3. Look up the word **corruption** in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Corruption-

The word Lust *epithumia* (ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah) means; a longing (especially for what is forbidden): concupiscence, desire, lust.

a. Through the *divine nature* we can have freedom from the *corruption of worldly lust*. In order to experience this, what is our part? Use Jude 1:20-21 as a guideline for your answer.

Jude 1:20-21

5. Read Romans 13:14. In what practical ways can you apply this passage to your life?

Romans 13:14

6. In reading these passages I couldn't help but think about the saving grace of God which has translated me from utter darkness into His marvelous light. And in thinking about my salvation I can't help but think about those who have not yet been born again. My heart has been heavy these past months for those in our community who are lost and don't even know it. I didn't realize how lost I was until the Gospel was presented to me. Would you take a few minutes and pray for God to give you His broken heart for the many that are on the path to Hell? Would you pray that God would use you to be a messenger of this Good News? Even though you might be afraid or timid to share with someone, could you think instead about their impending doom that awaits them?

Radio personality Paul Harvey tells the story of how an Eskimo kills a wolf. The account is grisly, yet it offers fresh insight into the consuming, self-destructive nature of sin.

"First, the Eskimo coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds another layer of blood, and another, until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood.

"Next, the hunter fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait, he licks it, tasting the fresh frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the arctic night. So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor-sharp sting of the naked blade on his own tongue, nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his OWN warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more--until the dawn finds him dead in the snow!"

It is a fearful thing that people can be "consumed by their own lusts." Only God's grace keeps us from the wolf's fate. -- Chris T. Zwingelberg

DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 1:1-4

1. In what way does:

a. *the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ* affect your decision to choose godly characteristics for your life?

b. *the knowledge of His exceedingly great and precious promises* affect your decision to choose godly characteristics for your life?

2. As you review these first four verses of 2 Peter, spend some time recording just some of the things you have *obtained* through your *precious faith in our God and Savior Jesus Christ*.

3. In what way have you come to a greater appreciation of the *exceedingly great and precious promises of God*?

4. Record in your Worksheets what you have learned about **“Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer, and Instructions.”**

“The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.” - Psalm 126:3