



6/25/25

At the end of today's passage, Peter talks about being nearsighted... and how that messes us up. Well, I used to have perfect vision, but now I am both nearsighted and farsighted. I was just thinking the other day as I was trying to put makeup on without glasses, "When I get to heaven, I will be able to see everything vividly!" This may sound silly, but I got so excited. I'm so thankful for my glasses, but they're not the same as having great vision. I pray that you and I would have perfect spiritual vision both in the here and now, and for all eternity, so that we don't miss any of the details of the beautiful picture God is painting for us!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

2 Peter 1:1-11

Once again, I am overwhelmed by the humility I see from the very beginning of this passage. It's amazing what the Spirit working in us does. Before He came to rest on and dwell in Peter, his pride got him into all kinds of trouble! But here, I see that he doesn't even bring up his position as apostle, which was reserved for 12 disciples and Paul. No, he just calls himself "a servant of Jesus Christ." So humble. O Lord, please help me to see myself that way, too! Pastor David Jeremiah says, "The way we will truly know we are servants of Christ is how we respond when we're treated like one." Yikes! Lord, You have some changing to do in me!

Again, I see Peter's humility in his address to the readers. "To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." He did not consider his faith as superior to other believers. He said we are all of EQUAL standing in our faith BECAUSE it comes through the righteousness of our Savior, Jesus... "For by grace you are saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, NOT as a result of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

More humility as I read on. What is true humility? It is NOT thinking too much of myself. It is also NOT thinking too little of myself. Andrew Murray defines it well... "Humility is the

displacement of self by the enthronement of God. Where God is all, self is nothing." True humility is putting God on the throne. Peter humbly and truthfully says, "HIS divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of HIM who called us to HIS own glory and excellence, by which HE has granted to us HIS precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

I want to paraphrase this with what it is NOT... I have NO divine power, NO ability to earn eternal life OR godliness. Knowing myself and following my heart get me nothing. I have no excellence in myself. In fact, Paul says in Romans 7:18, "For I know that NOTHING GOOD dwells in me, that is, in my flesh." I can do nothing in my own strength to gain a heart like God's. Trying to do so will keep me trapped in the corruption of this world... corruption that did not come from God, but from selfish desires. O Lord, please don't let pride blind me from seeing the repulsiveness of living for SELF!

WHEN I humbled myself before God in faith, and RECEIVED my Savior, Jesus Christ, and when I was sealed with the Holy Spirit, a flood of blessings became mine. They ARE mine right now. But I will see further on that I miss out on experiencing them when I refuse to continually humble myself before God. I HAVE received ALL things that pertain to life in Christ... salvation, mercy, grace, peace, joy, and the list goes on. I have received everything I need to be like Jesus. And the Holy Spirit is the one who is transforming me into the image of Christ. The way I grow in experiencing these blessings is through knowing Him more and more.

Jesus has called me to HIS own glory and excellence, so that I don't have to be trapped in corruption ever again. It is by HIS precious and great promises... that He never breaks... I get deliverance and freedom rather than corruption.

So... with that in mind, God calls me to "make EVERY effort" to build on His foundation of faith. Let me understand this... If I have no faith, any attempt at displaying these 7 attributes will be motivated in pride and have no value before God. These things are supplements to my faith, but they can never replace my faith.

Make EVERY effort... Don't be lazy about this. If my faith in God is genuine, I will continue to persevere as I supplement my faith with these 7 things...

- 1. Virtue... moral excellence because Jesus is morally excellent. Morality can exist apart from God, but if it's done in pride rather than faith, it's all about lifting MY name up. There is nothing excellent about that.*
- 2. Knowledge... through personal experience... not just knowing ABOUT God, but KNOWING God.*
- 3. Self-control... for this to be genuine, I need to recognize it as SPIRIT-control. When I'm truly controlled by the Spirit in humble faith, I will be able to persevere even when*

my circumstances seem impossible because I trust that God has provided me with everything I need.

- 4. Steadfastness... endurance, perseverance. I will know how much I truly love and trust God when my circumstances require me to endure both suffering and temptation.*
- 5. Godliness... devotion to Jesus. I recently heard someone say, "You can't have godliness without God. Otherwise, you just have liness." And what in the world is that??? There is no devotion to God without humility and faith.*
- 6. Brotherly affection... I think it's very interesting that this comes AFTER faith, moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, endurance, and godliness. People are hard to love sometimes. I know. I am one of them!!! Without faith, loving others will often be rooted in giving to GET, not giving sacrificially as Jesus gave.*
- 7. Love... This is the epitome of becoming like Jesus. This is agape... sacrificial love... the same love Jesus gave when He humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross. There is absolutely no way I can genuinely have this kind of love without faith and humility. Otherwise, I will make it all about me.*

When I'm humbling myself before God and building on my faith, all these qualities WILL be increasing in me. They make me effective and fruitful in my knowledge of Jesus. Basically, they draw me closer to Jesus in relationship, and drawing closer to Jesus in relationship makes me more like these qualities that are found in Jesus... and it effects how I relate to other people as well.

When I'm NOT building on the faith that God has graciously given to me, I starve myself of these Jesus-like qualities. And just like going without healthy food makes me malnourished, not feeding my soul with the qualities God wants to grow in me make me spiritually malnourished, even to the point that my vision is blurry. I become extremely nearsighted, which means I can only see what's close to my eyes, but I can't see what's in the distance. When I can't see the distance, I forget what Jesus did for me. I get so stuck on the selfish, corrupt pleasures of the temporary that I forget the enduring, holy pleasures of the eternal.

When I'm nearsighted, I forget that Jesus cleansed me from my sin. If I forget or minimize that I'm cleansed from my sin, I forget and minimize Jesus in my life. This is a big deal. It's not that I haven't been cleansed from my sin... it's that I forget that I have been cleansed, and so I act as though I haven't... and I become ineffective and unfruitful for Jesus.

Do I understand the joy of being effective and fruitful for Him? That's when I find the most satisfaction. That's when I'm doing what I was created to do. So Lord, please help me to "be all

the more diligent to confirm my calling and my election." Help me to be secure in the fact that I belong to You, that I have been adopted and chosen, that I have been delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of Your beloved Son.

When I'm practicing the 7 qualities built on my faith, I won't fall. I can't just know them. I can't just dabble in them. I need to make them my practice... to be a "doer of the word and not a hearer only, deceiving myself" (James 1:22). When I'm humbling myself before God, standing firm in my faith, and making it a practice to build the attributes of Jesus on my foundation with the life, godliness, and precious and great promises God supplies, it is not just my life here on earth that is filled with hope and joy. I can also look forward to what's in the distance. "There will be richly provided for me an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." I will receive an awesome reward as I enter heaven. Peter said in his first letter to stand firm in our faith and endure, "so that the tested genuineness of your faith ~ more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire ~ may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). That's praise and glory and honor for ME! It's like God's gonna welcome me into heaven with a party.

I saw a meme that said something like, "Don't be the person who gets to heaven and God says, 'It's nice to finally hear your voice.' Be the person who gets to heaven and God says with a smile, 'Ah, I recognize that voice.'" O Lord, I praise You that through Jesus, You're going to welcome me into heaven no matter what. But I pray that I will live in such a faithful way that You welcome me with balloons and cheers... not for my glory, but for Yours. Amen.