



7/14/26

I remember when I was growing up and the pastor would start to give the gospel message while the music started to play "Just as I Am" or "The Old Rugged Cross." I would immediately check out. I already knew Jesus as my Savior and I thought there was no need to listen, since I had my ticket to heaven. But the 1st reason to rehearse the gospel to ourselves in A Gospel Primer is that it was the New Testament model that Paul set for believers. He was excited, not only to preach the gospel to unbelievers that they might be saved, but he also preached the gospel to believers so that we could learn from its truths as a daily model for our lives.

So... as I consider the gospel message for my life today, I want to hold onto gratitude. No matter what I go through today, I have an eternal hope that says my soul is secure because of Jesus. How about you? What truth of the gospel do you need to rehearse to yourself today?

Blessings,
Jonna

2 Peter 1:1-11 ~

When someone asks what the basics of losing weight are, two elements are ultimately offered... diet and exercise. When someone asks how to grow in the Lord, two elements are ultimately necessary... the word and prayer. These offer something far greater than losing weight. They lead us to having a healthy soul. O Lord, that is my desire!!! A healthy soul that is so intertwined with You that we are inseparable. So please help me to study this passage and talk to You about it the whole way. And please help me to give the Holy Spirit full access to do whatever He needs to do in me in order to accomplish that perfect health. I need His help! After all, Your word is called "the sword of the SPIRIT" and I am called to "pray at all times in the SPIRIT." Holy Spirit, please lead me to Your truth in this passage.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, 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."

Please don't let it slip past me that Peter called himself both a servant and an apostle of Jesus. He was first, a servant... a doulos... a bondservant whose sole purpose was to serve Jesus wholeheartedly. A bondservant was a servant by choice. He voluntarily gave up all rights and said, "Not my will, but Yours be done." Lord, You know that my desire is to be that servant for You, to say, "I serve at the pleasure of my King." YOU are my King. Please help me to recognize when I'm making choices for SELF and help me to repent and turn from my SELF in humble surrender to You.

Peter also called himself an apostle. That is the highest level of authority in the church. The title of Apostle died with Paul and the disciples. Peter recognized that his level of authority was not something to be taken lightly or to be used for selfish gain. He recognized that his position was a gift and a responsibility from You, and he was humble in his position. O Lord, I don't have anywhere near that kind of authority, and yet I can think I'm entitled to some kind of privilege or respect. Please help me to have the same humility that Peter had... I KNOW that was because of Your Spirit working in him because I know what he was like before Jesus saved him from his sins. I am so like Peter was before Jesus ascended to heaven... sticking my foot in my mouth and saying dumb things. Please help me to be more like him after the Spirit sealed him for salvation... humble and repentant and faithful.

I love that Peter didn't take his authority as a reason to think he was superior to other believers. He wrote "to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours." There is no second place at the foot of the cross. How do we obtain a faith of equal standing? "By the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ." Peter recognized that he had nothing that wasn't given to him apart from Christ, which is why he had no reason to think of himself as superior to others. O Lord, I KNOW what I'm like when You're not on the throne of my heart. I KNOW I have no righteousness of my own. Please help me to remember that and celebrate Your gift of righteousness to me.

Vs. 3-4 ~ "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."

O Lord, You have generously used Your divine, supernatural power to give me EVERYTHING I need for life... eternal life that affects my body, soul, and spirit. Nothing is left alone to fend for itself. And You've given me Your power to be godly... to be devoted to You. This is so huge because my flesh could not muscle devotion to You no matter how hard I would try. I praise You that You understand my weakness, You sympathize with my weakness, and You help me overcome my weakness in Your strength.

You do all of this by helping me to know You. Truly, that's the only thing I need for change... to know You. I get to know You who have called me according to Your own glory... to Your majesty and splendor! I can't wait to see You in all Your glory someday!!! You have called me by Your own excellence. There is no higher glory or excellence than Yours. That means that no one, not even me, has the power to change what You've declared. Praise Your name!!!

Because You've called me, You've given me all Your promises. Not one promise of Yours pertaining to eternal life and devotion to You is withheld from me! O Lord, do I believe that? Not always. Please forgive me and help me to stop thinking that my feelings are more credible than Your truth. When my feelings want to tell me that You're withholding good from me, please help me to speak the truth of Your word out loud as I cry out to the Holy Spirit to deliver me from the lies that I create in my own mind.

The more I embrace Your promises and knowing You, the more I partner with You and have koinonia fellowship with You... total oneness. I have escaped the corruption of this world that I once embraced because of my own sinful, rebellious desires. Please help me to see them for what they are and not be lured back into the things for which Jesus had to die.

Vs. 5-7 ~ "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love."

O Lord, because You have done ALL this for me, please help me to cooperate with You in diligently and earnestly building on the foundation of my faith. Help me not to get lulled into the traps and distractions of this world. They only lead to misery.

By the power of the Holy Spirit working in me, please help me to build on my faith in You...

- Virtue... moral excellence. This is the lowest level of faith... choosing to do what You call good, not justifying or rationalizing any behavior that goes against You.
- Knowledge... Please help me to pursue my relationship with You so that I know You from personal experience and not just that I know about You. Wow, Lord. This is only the second level... Without knowing You, none of the rest can be built. Please help me to diligently pursue You.
- Self-control... This is a fruit of the Spirit... it's more about Spirit control than muscling control. And it's way more about letting Your Spirit help me to rule over my feelings and emotions than to control what I eat! Please help me to rule my spirit so that it bows to You.
- Endurance... oh wow. Perseverance and patience don't come without faith, right choices, knowing You, and a Spirit controlled heart. That makes sense. How can I possibly endure struggles without totally and diligently depending on You??? O Lord, there is SO MUCH scripture that talks about situations where I will need to endure, learn to endure! 1 Peter 4:12 tells me not to be surprised by the trials and to actually rejoice that I get to share in Christ's sufferings! Philippians 1:29 says that You have granted to me the privilege of both faith and suffering. Please help me to see suffering through Your eyes. And help me to cling to You when I need to endure whatever situation I'm in. Help me to remember the promise that You will work ALL things together for my good, even the things that are not good.
- Godliness... total devotion to You. O Lord, this is my desire... total devotion to serve at the pleasure of my King because I trust You completely. Please make this so in me. It does not come without endurance. If I think devotion to You means that You'll make my life easy, I am not building on the foundation of my faith in You. I am choosing some other gospel, and it's a lie. The beautiful thing of being devoted to You is that I get to be near You, to experience Your joy and Your peace. O Father, please help me to turn away from anything that would keep me from being wholeheartedly devoted to You.
- Brotherly affection... Wow again. If I'm lacking a tenderness toward other believers, I'm lacking faith in Your affection for me... I'm lacking right choices because I'm choosing to judge instead... I'm lacking a deeper knowledge of Jesus who tenderly cares for me... I'm lacking self-control because I'm letting my feelings dictate my care for others rather than Your truth... I'm lacking endurance because caring for others can be hard when they're not caring for me... I'm lacking godliness because I'm choosing self over what pleases You. O Lord, please help me to be diligent to obey You, and help me to be a friend to ALL of Your children, my brothers and sisters.

- Love... agape love. This is the pinnacle of my faith. Your word says in 1 John that my genuine obedience to You means that Your love is perfected in me, and that when I love like You love, there is no cause for me to stumble. O Lord, I want to love like You love! I can't love like that in my own strength. Please help me to keep my eyes on You. You will do this in me. I trust You. You WANT to do this in me. Let me not stand in Your way. And let me not be "a hearer of the word and not a doer, deceiving myself" (James 1:22).

Vs. 8-9 ~ "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."

I want to be effective and fruitful for You. Please help me not to stand in Your way. If I'm not diligent to build on the foundation of my faith, I don't lose my salvation... but I do become so nearsighted and blind that I forget the gospel. I forget the amazing life and promises and hope I have in You. O Lord, I don't want that!!!

Vs. 10-11 ~ "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Father, please help me to be all the more diligent to build on the foundation of my faith... on my calling from You, on the fact that I belong to You! This will protect me from falling away from You.

I KNOW I'm Yours. I KNOW I will spend eternity with You, but I want more than just a ticket into heaven... I want a "rich", abundant welcome home! I saw a meme that said something like, "Let me not get to heaven and hear God say, 'It's so nice to finally hear your voice.'" Ugh! Lord! I pray that You will be so used to hearing my voice that You say, "Ahhh... there's My girl. I would know that voice anywhere." I can't wait to run into Your arms and be welcomed home! I can't wait to hear YOUR voice and see YOUR face. Though I can't see You now, I love You and I believe in You and I rejoice in You. But let me never think where I am with You right now is enough... Let me discover all the treasures of loving You more and more. Amen!