



diligently waiting

## **A Faith of Equal Standing**

*2 Peter 1:1-2*

**Main Point:** Every believer has a faith of equal standing through Jesus.

### **Every believer has a unique calling that identifies his/her life (1a).**

Everything about Peter's identity was connected to his connection to Jesus Christ. Peter identified himself by both his given name and the name that Jesus had given him. Simon was Peter's given name. It was the name that he had received from his parents, and the name that he grew up hearing others call him. But Peter's name changed when he met Jesus. Jesus had given him the name Peter, which is connected to the word for rock. It was upon Peter's confession of faith in Jesus that Jesus would build his church. So for Peter, surely his name was reminded of who he was before Christ and who he now was in Christ: Simon Peter. Peter also identified himself as a servant of Jesus. Peter saw Jesus as his master, and he willingly surrendered his life to his Lord in order to live for him in obedience and to serve him with his life. Peter also identified himself as an apostle. In the New Testament this term is connected to these early disciples whom Jesus personally sent out to be his messengers. All of these things were connected to Peter's connection to Jesus Christ. He was Peter because of Jesus. He was a servant because of Jesus. He was an apostle because of Jesus. All that Peter was was connected to the call of Jesus in Peter's life. Today, nothing has changed in the lives of believers. We are identified by Jesus, and we are identified by the unique call of Jesus in our lives.

1. Do you see your identity primarily in who you are apart from Christ or who you are in Jesus Christ? Why, or why not?
2. Make a list of words that identify who you are in Jesus. These should be words that explain God's call in Christ in your life.
3. Put these words together to make an introduction of yourself similar to Peter's introduction of himself. How can you introduce yourself in relationship to who Christ has called you to be?

### **Every believer has a faith of equal standing in the righteousness of Jesus (1b).**

Peter addressed those that he was writing this letter to, and the address in the letter is very general. This letter was intended to go to many churches and to be read by many believers. Peter wanted to make sure that those individuals understood and saw themselves through their identity in Jesus. The foundation of our identity in Jesus is our standing in Christ that we receive through the gift of faith in Christ. Peter's point to these believers was simple: You have a faith that is equally precious and honored because your faith and my faith are both founded in the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. What a powerful and wonderful truth in the gospel. All believers find their standing before God not in themselves and what they can do,

but through the righteousness of Jesus Christ and what he has done. As believers, our specific callings may differ in the work that God has gifted and called us to do in his kingdom, but our standing in Christ is the same! We are all standing on the same footing of Jesus Christ.

1. Have you ever thought that someone else has a better standing with God because you see their faith as better than yours? Perhaps you've thought that someone's faith gives them a more "direct line to God" than you? Why?
2. What is Word of Faith theology? How does 2 Peter 1:1 speak against this idea of our effort or amount of faith being what is key to the work or effectiveness of faith in our lives?

### **Every believer knows that Jesus is their God and Savior (1b).**

Peter stated that the faith of equal standing was ours as believers through the righteousness of "our God and Savior Jesus Christ." In the language of the New Testament, there's little room for misunderstanding what Peter said. He connected Jesus to two important things: The one who is our God, and the one who is our Savior. This is one of the most powerful and direct statements of the deity of Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. The eternal son of God, who he himself is God. He is also uniquely – as the son of God – the one who came to earth to die for our sins and be raised from the dead in order to be our Savior. This is the core truth of the Christian faith. This is the faith of equal standing that is ours in Christ Jesus. Every believer knows that Jesus is their God and Savior. There's no room for viewing Jesus as anything less than who he truly and eternally is!

1. Out of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is God? What does the Christian doctrine of the Trinity teach from scripture?
2. Jesus is God. What are the implications of this truth in your life in the way that you worship him, serve him, and find your identity in him?
3. Jesus is Savior. What does this mean? How is he your Savior? Do you know someone who needs Jesus as God and Savior in their life? Pray for them now.

### **Every believer grows through the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus (2).**

Peter ends his introduction by extending a blessing, praying that God's grace and peace would be multiplied or grown in the lives of those who read this letter. How does God's grace and peace grow in the life of a believer? Peter answered that question by stating the key to growing the grace and peace of the Lord in a believer's life was the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. This letter's intent was to bring that very knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord into the minds and the hearts of these early believers. This knowledge was meant to protect them from false teachers who were actively trying to draw hearts away from the truth. This knowledge was meant to ground them in the truth of God. This knowledge of the truth of the gospel and the application of the gospel in the lives of believers would bring grace and peace into their lives. This is still the way it works today. The threat of false teachers is still a major threat in the world today and in the church today, but the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord still multiplies the grace and peace of the Lord in the lives of those who believe.

1. How have you experienced this truth in your life? How has growing in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord led to God's grace and peace growing in your life?
2. Do you know someone who needs God's grace and peace in their life? Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?