I. FIRST, GOD GIVES US FAITH.

A. This is what Peter says in verse one—“A faith as precious as ours”.

   1. In one sense, faith means the ability to believe—Ephesians 2:8-9.

   2. In another sense, faith refers to the body of teaching or doctrines concerning Christianity.

B. In both cases this faith is “received”—1:1-- To those who.... have received a faith...

   1. Peter implies that this faith must be “given”. How? —1:1--... to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith...

      a. This is in line with Ephesians 2:8-9— “It is the gift of God” ...

      b. Notice that Peter refers to Jesus as both our “God and Savior”, stressing his divinity as well as his humanity.

   2. Although this faith comes as gift from God, as with all gifts, it must be received personally.

   3. In the salvation process there is a part that God plays (He gives) and there is a part that we also play (We must receive).

II. SECOND, GOD GIVES GRACE AND PEACE.

A. Grace refers to God’s undeserved favor and love.

B. “Peace” refers to peace with God because we were once alienated from Him due to our sin—Colossians 1:21.

C. Notice that peace naturally follows grace (1:2--“Grace and peace”).

D. This grace and peace is available to us through our knowledge of Jesus—1:2--... through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord...

   1. In one sense, “knowledge” refers to knowing and understanding the gospel.

   2. In another sense, “knowledge” refers to personal experience. It’s not enough to just know “about” Jesus but we must know Jesus “personally”—2 Timothy 1:12.
III. THIRD, GOD GIVES US GODLINESS.

2 Peter 1:3
His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

A. “Godly life” refers to our spiritual life in becoming more like Christ—Romans 8:29.

B. This godliness is only possible because of God’s power, not our discipline—1:3—“His divine power...we need for a godly life...”

C. Furthermore, this godliness is only available to those who “know Christ” or have personal relationship with him—1:3...through our knowledge of him” ...

IV. FOURTH, GOD GIVES US PRECIOUS PROMISES.

2 Peter 1:4
Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

A. God has already given us these precious promises—1:4 “has given us”.

B. What are these promises that are already ours?


   Acts 2:38a
   Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins........


   Acts 2:38b
   ...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C. The benefits of these promises already received, enable us to “participate in the divine nature”-1:4. This means to become “more” like Christ as Romans 8:29 says.