

2 Peter - Week 1

Faith and Convictions

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:
2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

First Peter was primarily about hope in the midst of suffering.
Second Peter is about faith and false teachers.

- Peter was transformed from a fighter to a servant.
- Christian faith was never intended for us to remain unchanged or static.
- It means a Christian is not just a believer but a follower, willing to obey all God says.
- Humility is not always framed with weakness or passiveness but boldness in who you believe in.
- The Christian who knows what and who he believes in is rarely seduced by false teachers or bad doctrine.

The Message

1. Peter reminds us the Christian life begins with faith.
 - Jesus offers every believer three spiritual commodities to be used to live the victorious life and become the person God desires you to become:
 - He offers righteousness
 - He offers grace
 - He offers peace
 - God's grace and peace are multiplied to us as we walk with Him and trust His promises.
 - The Christian life is all about arithmetic.
 - Change and transformation in the Christian life are fueled by the combination of human responsibility and the divine power of God.
 - We add the power of God and subtract all the hindrances of life. We keep our lives from being divided by Satan and sin and we multiply our love and forgiveness to release the will of God.

2. This faith in Christ involves God's **authority** and supremacy in our lives.
 - What does God's power and supremacy produce?
It produces life and **godliness**.
 - We must **train** ourselves in godliness.
 - If it's new, it **ain't** true.
 - We are also called to a life of **virtue**. It's putting God on **display** in our own lives--daily.
 - Satan will use **curiosity** to open old gates or to develop new ones.

3. Faith in God involves the **promises** of God.
 - The promises of His Word are for us to be able to truly overcome and to **develop** His life in us.
 - Here is what the promises do for every believer:
 - They give **hope**.
 - They **strengthen** us within.
 - The lost sinner is **dead**, but the believer is alive because of the divine **nature** within us.
 - Mankind is under the bondage of **corruption** but the believer shares in the **freedom** and growth of a life that is alive.
 - The sinner is daily **decaying** and will one day die.
 - Man's **nature** will determine his appetite.
 - Nature determines **behavior**.

Final thoughts:

- Because of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can **see** and **show** the divine nature of Christ and also have the ability to escape the corruption of this world.
- The promises of God are true and can be relied on because we trust the **character** of the One who made the promises.
- The circumstances of life can touch us but they cannot control us when we, by faith, allow God to use them to make the **changes** He desires in our lives.