

Faith and Molding Character

Week 26 - 1 Peter 1:3-9

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." NIV

- The people of faith in Scripture were people who developed **godly character** in their lives.
- Andrew Murray said: "The lower, the emptier a man lies before God, the speedier and the fuller will be the **inflow** of the divine glory.
- This cannot happen in man's own ability but requires **dependence** on the grace of God **daily** to direct our thoughts and steps.
- For believers, life is the **school** in which God trains us for His purpose.
- God will use trials in our lives, just as much as He uses **blessings**, to teach us.
- Both of these tools are the text books in the "School of Christian Experience" that God will use to develop **faith** and the character of Christ in our lives.
- Allowing God to mold us is the **humility** I spoke of, that releases our faith to trust God with our lives.
- Part of God's process that all believers must go through is accomplished by the **grace** available to us daily.
- God will never mold us without giving us the ability not just to cope, but to make the right **choices** in life to help us grow.

I believe He gives us **three** graces to accomplish the life He offers us:

1. **FAITH**

- Gives us **access** to God
- **Guarantees** us heaven one day
- **Guards** us
- **Grows** us

2. **HOPE** “a fact not yet **realized**”

- Separates us from all other **creatures**
- Gives us the incentive not to **quit**
- Helps us to **bear up** under the trials of life
- Is the power that keeps **Satan** from doing all he would like to do to us.

3. **LOVE** -God’s love shows itself in the word **humility**

- Will accomplish God’s **will** of developing character in us
- Will help us to be **committed** to God, to family, and to others in following God’s plans
- Will **cover** us with forgiveness and protection.
“Love covers a multitude of sins”
- Will allow us to remain **comforted** no matter what is happening in our lives.

God’s Love

- **Forgives** and gives the grace needed to continue no matter what.
- **Forgets** our sins when they are confessed.
- Is **faithful** to give unconditional love.

Final thought:

- God will use the tools of faith, love, and hope to mold His children’s character, developing the life of Christ in us. God will **empower** us to be able to live out this Christian life.