

**"Growing Up"**

**Part 2**

**2 Peter 1:1-11**

**Introduction:** Last week as we ended our study in 2 Peter, we were just considering why it was that Peter was so concerned with growth in the believers he was writing to. His concern is seen in the second chapter.

**2 Peter 2:14**

*<sup>14</sup> Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls; an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:*

Peter understood that those who were unlearned were also unstable and they were the ones who were most likely to be deceived by the false teachers. This is exactly why he is so concerned for the spiritual growth of these believers. Peter also mentions his concern later in this letter.

**2 Peter 3:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;*

*<sup>16</sup> As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

*<sup>17</sup> Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*

As we move on in chapter one Peter is going to give a list of provisions from God for our spiritual growth.

**I. You Need to Grow**

**2 Peter 1:3-11**

**Part 2**

**Notice 2 Peter 1:3-4**

First of all we need to see that Peter reminds his readers that God had already given to them ALL THINGS that were needed for life and godliness. Then in verse 4 we see that the provisions are through His promises or through the Word of God.

This is Peter's way of countering the Gnostics who claimed they had a secret knowledge which could only be attained by coming over to their camp. Peter lets his readers know that they had EVERYTHING that was needed to live a life of godliness.

As believers we are far more wealthy than most realize. We have such an abundance of spiritual wealth, and the sad thing is that many believers never tap into what God has provided for them.

### **Ephesians 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

We do not need to pray for provisions or do something special to get the provisions, we already possess them. They were given to us at the moment of salvation. All we need to do is study the Bible to see what they are and then appropriate them to our lives. Now let us see 4 of these provisions.

#### **1. Power**

### **Notice 2 Peter 1:3**

We do not just have power, but we have DIVINE POWER. We have God's power working within us. But most believers hardly ever tap into this DIVINE POWER.

### **Ephesians 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

We have the power of God working within us. This is the very power that brought Jesus from the grave. This is the very power that brought into existence the heavens and the earth. This is the very power that sustains all things in this world. How do we tap into this power? This power is accessed when we are surrendered over to the Holy Spirit, and we allow Him to work through us. This power begins to work when we stop trying to do things in our own power. Let us notice another place where the word "POWER" is used.

### **Acts 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

This is the same word and the same power. It is the power that enabled the disciples to carry the Gospel into the far ends of the earth. It is the same power that brought 3000

to salvation in Peter's first sermon and 5000 to salvation in his second sermon. It is power that is seen in our lives when we walk under the control of the Holy Spirit.

## 2. Knowledge

Notice 2 Peter 1:3 again.

Peter is again countering the false teachers who claimed to have a secret knowledge. Let us notice Blue Letter Bible defines the word "knowledge." It means "precise and correct knowledge." This is in contrast to the "knowledge" of the Gnostics. They claimed to have a higher knowledge, but it was not the TRUE KNOWLEDGE. True knowledge only comes from God, and it is accessible for all of His children.

To get this knowledge it takes an effort on the part of the believer.

### Proverbs 2:1-5

*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*

<sup>2</sup> *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

<sup>3</sup> *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

<sup>4</sup> *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

<sup>5</sup> *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

Let us understand that knowledge by itself is not enough for the believer> When the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write chapter 1 He was presupposing that his readers would also possess WISDOM. Wisdom is the ability to apply the knowledge we receive from God.

### Proverbs 2:10-16

<sup>10</sup> *When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

<sup>11</sup> *Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:*

<sup>12</sup> *To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

<sup>13</sup> *Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*

<sup>14</sup> *Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;*

<sup>15</sup> *Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*

<sup>16</sup> *To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;*

**Proverbs 3:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*

<sup>14</sup> *For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*

**3. Promises**

**Notice 2 Peter 1:4**

Let us notice that these are not just promises but they are GREAT and PRECIOUS promises. These are promises that are rock solid. They are not just words, but they are promises that are given by God. Let me show you what is said about the promises which God made to Abraham.

**Hebrews 6:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

<sup>18</sup> *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

<sup>19</sup> *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

The two immutable/unchangeable things are God's promises of Genesis 12 and God's covenant in Genesis 15. The point I want you to see is that God's promises to His people are unchangeable and it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, the promises that are for us are rock solid. All of this raises a question, "How are the promises of God a provision for life and godliness?" I believe John answers this question for us.

**1 John 3:1-3**

*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

<sup>2</sup> *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

<sup>3</sup> **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

When we come to know the promises and we hide them in our hearts they truly do change the way we live. Is it not much easier to turn your back on this world knowing that God has promised us something far better in heaven? Does not the promise of the rapture give us hope to stay the course as the world grows darker? Is it not a blessing to know that as these bodies wear out that one day God will give us a glorified body? You see, the promises make a wonderful difference in the life of the believer.

#### 4. Divine nature.

**Notice 2 Peter 1:4 again.**

This means that as believers we have been given the nature of God. This is the new nature in the believer. Before salvation we had only one nature and it was the sin nature. But when we were saved, we were then given the nature of God. This means that now I no longer need to submit to the sin nature because the sin nature has been crucified and I can now surrender to the divine nature.

#### **Romans 6:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

<sup>4</sup> *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

<sup>5</sup> *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

<sup>6</sup> *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

It is the new nature that uses the power, knowledge, and promises of God to lead us in a walk of godliness.

The divine nature changes our lives. The divine nature is why we crave the things of God. It is why we cannot go off into sin and stay there. In contrast to these truths there are those today who claim to be saved but there is no desire for the things of God. There is no

break from sin. They go off and get back into their sin and they stay there. That kind of a lifestyle does not fit the Biblical definition of a New Testament believer.

**1 John 3:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

<sup>6</sup> *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*

<sup>7</sup> *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

<sup>8</sup> *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

<sup>9</sup> *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

If you are saved, then there will be a struggle within you between the two natures. You see our old nature is so corrupt that God did not attempt to rehabilitate it but instead He gave us a new nature.

**Notice 2 Peter 1:4 again.**

It is through these four resources that we are able to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. This was the opposite of what the Gnostics taught. They blamed their sin on the physical body because they taught everything physical was bad. They gave themselves to a life of sin blaming their sin on the body not themselves. But Peter counters this by say, "That is not correct!" God has given us EVERYTHING we need to escape the corruption that is in the world. Therefore there is absolutely NO EXCUSE for any believer to give into sin!

**Conclusion:**

If you are not growing as a believer, then it is because you are not appropriating what God has provided for you to escape sin. There should be a steady decline of sin in each of our lives as we grow in Christ. When we come back next week we will see what it looks like to grow in our spiritual walk.