

2 Peter 1:1-11

“Problems & Attacks From Within”

I. **1:1-4 – The knowledge of God**

A. V.1 – Salvation comes through a knowledge of God – 1 Tim. 2:3-4.

1) *Everyone’s* salvation comes through God’s righteousness, not man’s – Rom. 10:1-3. *Evidently, this was part of the false teaching Peter needed to address: salvation comes through no other means but Jesus Christ* – Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7.

B. V.2 – grace & peace come through a personal, intimate knowledge of God: Jesus Christ = *explains the unrest & frustration in so many: they’re trying to find peace through the means of this world which produces nothing but frustration* – John 14:27. ***The peace of God only comes through the grace of God*** – Ps. 103:10; Rom. 5:1-2; Col. 1:19-22.

C. V.3 – life & godliness come through the **divine** (supreme; sacred) power of God & a knowledge of God’s glorious nature: His glory & virtue – Is. 55:6-9; Neh. 9:31.

D. V.4 – through this knowledge of God comes the **exceedingly great** (very great) and **precious** (valuable) promises (1 John 2:25), which provide the blessing of becoming a partaker of God’s divine nature (1 John 3:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 8:9) which delivers us from the bondage of sin & death – Romans 6; 2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:1 > Is. 61:1-3; John 8:36.

II. **1:5-11 – Our growth in God**

A. V.5 – *“But also for this very reason”* = (v.1-4) – being a willing and active recipient of God’s saving grace & divine nature, we need to give all diligence (earnest zeal) to add/grow our spiritual walk:

1) Add virtue (valor; excellence) to faith – to ensure our faith is genuine – 1 Pet. 1:6-7; James 1:2-8.

2) Add knowledge to virtue – often what we think isn’t reality; i.e. we’re not as righteous as we think we are; we don’t know as much as we think we do – Rom. 10:1-3; Mark 7:1-13; Gal. 1:13-14.

a) *“There can be no proper growth without a deepened understanding of spiritual realities.” H.A. Ironside*

- 3) Add self – control to knowledge – to avoid arrogance & sinful tendencies – Rom. 12:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:1; 10:23-24; Phil. 2:3-4.
- 4) Add perseverance to self – control – to be consistently under control; not occasionally – Ps. 39: Prov. 16:32; 25:28; 29:11; Eccl. 5:2-3; 1 Cor. 9:25; James 1:19-20.
- 5) Add Godliness to perseverance – to ensure we’re pressing on in the right things for the right reason with the right attitude – 1 Tim. 4:7-8; 6:3-12.
- 6) Add brotherly kindness (fraternal affection) to Godliness – the heart of Godliness is loving other people – 1 John 4:7-11, 20-21; John 13:34-35; 15:12.
- 7) Add love (agape) to brotherly kindness – Christ like love loves all people at all times – Rom. 5:6-8; 12:9; John 3:16; 1 John 3:16.

B. V. 8 – *“For **if these things** (v.5-7) are yours and **abound** (increase; fill; superabound)”* = re-emphasizing the importance of spiritual growth – 2 Pet. 3:17-18; John 15:1-8; Heb.6:1-8.

1) *If we’re growing as we should spiritually, we won’t be **barren** (useless; yielding no return due to inactivity) or **unfruitful** in our spiritual walk. Our knowledge of God produces fruit for God.*

a) ***How many Christian walks can be described as useless, unfruitful & yielding no return due to inactivity?***

C. V.9 – when we lack *“these things”* (v.5-7), we’re:

1. Shortsighted (even blind) spiritually speaking = we’re unable to see down the road b/c of spiritual immaturity/wrong focus; unable to discern spiritual things – Col. 3:1-2.

a) *As a result, we’re blinded to the “freight trains” coming our way: deception; false doctrine; chameleon Christianity (blending in with the world); acceptable sinful lifestyles; watering down the word of God.*

2. We develop spiritual amnesia: we forget we've been cleansed from our old sins = *the worst consequence of a lack of growth: apathy & arrogance in our standing with God.*
- D. V.10 – therefore, be even more diligent to establish & strengthen your own salvation & spiritual growth, which enables us not to **stumble** (trip or err) = to be led astray or deceived.
- E. V.11 – our reward for these things is eternal – Col. 3:1-2.

III. **V.12-15 – Persistence in our knowledge of God.**

- A. V.12 – “*For this reason*” (v.8-11 – the results/consequences of not growing spiritually) Paul says he will not be **negligent** (careless not to care) to remind them always of the things he just mentioned, which are things they already know & are established in.
- 1) ***Why would Paul be so concerned with telling them he is going to be diligent in telling them things they already know???***
 - a) We're forgetful – v.12, 13 & 15; 3:1 = remind; John 14:26; Deut. 8:10-20; 31:20; 32:15-17; Jer. 2:32.
 - b) We need to be grounded in what we know – Phil. 3:1; 1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:6; Prov. 15:28.
 - i) *Don't practice until you get it right; practice until you can't get it wrong.*” – Nick Saban
 - ii) Don't read & study Scripture until you understand it; read it and study it until you can't forget it – Ps. 37:30-31; 119:11.
 - c) **Focus & emphasize what's most important – Gal. 4:18; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; John 21:15-23; Luke 22:32.**
- B. V.13 – Peter said as long as he was alive (in this tent), he understood it to be the right thing to do to keep stirring them up by reminding them.

1) Stir you up = to fully awaken; fan into flame; to shake back & forth.

a) How do you fan something into a flame???

i) Keep adding more fuel to the fire; i.e. God's word.

ii) Keep blowing on it; i.e. keep speaking God's truth into people's hearts & minds.

b) ***Extreme caution must be taken to ensure we're grounded & established in what we do know before moving onto "bigger & better" things spiritually speaking – Heb. 5:12.***

C. V.14 – 15 – Peter understood his time was running out here on earth & with it the opportunity to teach them the things they needed to be grounded in.

1) *To ensure the church was properly prepared corporately for the challenges to come, Peter began with a personal examination of their individual walk with Christ. If they weren't solid individually, they wouldn't be solid corporately. – 1 Tim. 4:16.*

2) *Peter committed himself to reminding them again and again of the things they already knew whether they wanted to hear it or not; whether they understood why he was doing it or not!*