

Tennessee Valley Bible Students Study Weekend

Friday May 15, 9:30-11:00 a.m.. (Central Time Zone)

Study: 2Peter 1:1-4 "Exceeding Great and Precious Promises"

Ques. Who is the Apostle Peter writing to and why is that important to know?
R2136

The Apostle Peter's Greeting

2Pet. 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant (Slave Lit. of Fig.) and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious (of equal value or honor) faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Jude 3

Ques. What is the basis and importance of grace and peace being multiplied unto us? What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God?

2Pet. 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied (increase-abound or in abundance) unto you through the knowledge (epignosis-full discernment) of God, and of Jesus our Lord, John 17:3,

Ques. What are some of the "all things" mentioned here pertaining to life and godliness?

Confirm Your Calling and Election

2Pet. 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us **all things** that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge (epignosis- full discernment) of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Ques. 1. How do the three (3) words Peter uses to describe the promises help us understand their importance? Do other translations help? 2. How do we escape the corruption referred to in this verse?

2Pe. 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:4, [NIV](#): "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."

2 Peter 1:4, [ESV](#): "by which he has granted to us his **precious and very great** promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

2 Peter 1:4, [KJV](#): "Whereby are given unto us **exceeding great and precious** promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

2 Peter 1:4, [NASB](#): "For by these He has granted to us His **precious and magnificent** promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."

2 Peter 1:4, [NLT](#): "And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us **great and precious** promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires."

2 Peter 1:4, [CSB](#): "By these he has given us **very great and precious** promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire."

2Peter 1:4, [WNT](#): "It is by means of these that He has granted us His **precious and wondrous (Lit. very great or greatest)** promises, in order that through them you nay, one and all, become sharers in the very nature of God, having completely escaped the corruption which exists in the world through earthly cravings."

G3176 *meg'-is-tos* Exceeding great

Superlative of [G3173](#); *greatest* or *very great*: - exceeding great.

tim'-ee-os [timios](#)

Including the comparative [τίμιώτερος timiōteros](#) and the superlative [τίμιώτατος timiōtatos](#); from [G5092](#); *valuable*, that is, (objectively) *costly*, or (subjectively) *honored, esteemed*, or (figuratively) *beloved*: - dear, honourable, (more, most) *precious*, had in reputation.

Ques. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROMISES?

To answer this question we collectively will be reading and discussing the provided information from the question book. After this we will be asking the brethren for their favorite or most meaningful precious promise to read and comment on, and open for discussion as time permits.

Angels of His mercy—His promises exceeding great and precious—minister unto us and us. R2412,c2,p3

As we fill our minds with God's promises, the whole character, the whole life, becomes more transformed. R5739,c1,p1

In proportion as the promises are before our minds, in that proportion we have strength and courage to run the narrow way. R5095,c1,p4

The Lord's people should so thoroughly apply the precious promises of Divine care that their hearts would be entirely free from anxiety. F572,p2

Those who can and will exercise full confidence in all the Divine promises, may go from victory to victory, from blessing to blessing, from joy to joy, from one attainment to another, and have a glorious victory in the end over the world, flesh and Adversary, through the imputed merit and continued assistance of Him who loved and bought us. To this class the giants of opposition and despair lose their power, even as did Goliath before the sling stone of David. R4046,c2,bottom

"Feed" upon the promises.

These promises that are given to us are the spiritual food upon which we, as embryotic New Creatures, must feed. No matter how much food may be supplied, if, for any reason, we fail to appropriate the necessary spiritual nourishment, we will be deficient to some extent. The Apostle's words seem to corroborate this thought—"To us are given exceeding great and precious promises that *by these* we might become partakers of the Divine nature"—that is to say, If we do not use these we will not be partakers of the Divine nature, but by the use of these we may "make our calling and election sure" and become joint-heirs with Christ. R4665,c2,p4

Must not be neglected. Must be continually used.

The promises of the Divine Word were given to us as the basis of faith,—as the fuel to produce the power in us to *will* and to *do* God's good pleasure. And hence these gracious promises must not be neglected; they must be continually used and must continue in us to energize us. And the energy must be applied, and we must progress proportionately against the course of this world. R2879,c1,top

"Delve" into them.

Delve into the promises of God more and more. As you do this, the roots of faith will draw up the nutriment and send it out into your life, and you will grow, just as a tree grows, because nourished, fed. Thus alone will you become established in *The Faith*. R5559,c2,p1

The heart must be filled with the promises.

If the promises of the Divine Word be not received into the heart to satisfy its cravings or longings, it will feed upon other things; and the world, the flesh and the devil are all crowding upon it, offering various attractions, some of which will be received if the heart be not filled and kept filled. R3552,c2,p1

No greater stimulus to true Godliness can be found than the precious promises given unto us. R2228,c2,p5

Our joy is largely dependent upon our study of the Word and our knowledge of the precious promises contained therein for those who overcome. R5460,top

Endeavor to realize their import.

Soberly, thoughtfully, we are to weigh and endeavor to realize the import of the promises and to gather from them their invigorating inspiration. R3149,c1,p6

Their value more fully realized as we live closer to the Lord.

As the Spirit of God draws our hearts into closer fellowship and sympathy with the Divine mind, the value of these precious promises is more and more fully realized, until there glows in our hearts the same holy enthusiasm that so filled the hearts of the Apostles. R3149,c1,p3

Appropriating them to ourselves is growing in grace and knowledge.

After the promises are ours, it requires time and a continual application of faith, in order to rightly appreciate God's promises, and appropriate them to ourselves; and this is Scripturally called "growing in grace and knowledge." We grow in knowledge as we take note of the promises of God, and by faith apply them to ourselves, and seek to discern in our lives the fulfilment of these promises; we grow in grace simultaneously, for unless each item of knowledge be received into a good and honest heart, and bring forth its measure of obedience and righteousness (grace) we will not be prepared for the next step of knowledge, and would be thus stopped, or possibly turned back. R3156,c2,p1

Precious promises are these, wonderful words of life! Let us count them over and over again, that all their sweet significance may sink deep into our hearts and bring forth their blessed fruitage in our lives. May they cheer us in every dark and trying hour and reinforce our waning powers with renewed vigor, courage, and zeal, that we may press along the narrow way until indeed our "eyes shall see the King in His beauty." R5863,c1,p2

Give them more attention.

That the year shall be one of more than usual progress and spiritual blessing, we recommend that each of us give more attention than ever before to God's *promises* to us as His Church and to the *conditions* upon which they shall be made sure to us. R2240,c1,p2

Courage and strength from the promises.

There are many difficulties to be surmounted, and it requires courage to surmount difficulties. But the courage born of faith in God and in His "exceeding great and precious promises" strengthens them when otherwise they might be overwhelmed. It gives them a strength to which all others are strangers. If a child of God becomes discouraged and loses his hope and strength, it is because he has lost his hold upon the Lord's promises to help. To lose courage is to lose faith. Loss of faith and courage make a child of God powerless before his foes. We must trust our Father even when the meaning of His providences is veiled from our eyes and when our efforts to serve Him seem to be hedged up. R5712,c1,p7; c2,p1

Must be Really, Fully Believed and Personally Appropriated. A Powerful Influence.

The promises of God made to this class are exceeding great and precious, and if they are really believed they cannot fail to powerfully influence the life; but if they are not received, it is manifest that they can have no power over the life. And more, if they be not fully believed, if they be not personally appropriated, they are not applicable, and no one can hope for anything in them. This is clearly intimated in the words of the Apostle—"Now the just shall live by faith." R1798,c1,p6

Faith so Tenacious that the Promises Become Living Realities.

Paul reached forward to the things that were before, his faith took hold of the promises of God with such tenacity that to him they were living realities, inspiring zeal and faithfulness. Upon the Heavenly themes he allowed his mind to dwell, as he also advised others, saying, "Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous or praiseworthy,—think on these things." This is the way he reached forward to the things before; and thus also we must gather our inspiration to holiness and our courage to endurance and persevering faithfulness, even unto death. R1885,c2,p2

Each should *cultivate* faith in his own heart: (a) By refreshing his memory continually with the Divine promises, becoming very familiar with these in the Father's Word. (b) He should seek more and more to remember that having made his covenant with the Lord these promises are his, and in his heart and with his lips he should claim them as his before the Lord in prayer with thanksgiving. He should claim them as his in his own thoughts, and in his conferences on holy things with the brethren. When trials or difficulties or perplexities arise, he should think of these promises, remembering that they *belong* to him—because God has promised them to such as love Him,—who have made a covenant by self-sacrifice. R2642,c2,p7

"EXCEEDING GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES"

OLD TESTAMENT

**Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down: for
the Lord upholdeth him with His hand. [Psa. 37:24](#)**

We must not overlook...the assurance that though the child of God may stumble at times in the way, these will never mean to him an utter fall, because his hand is still held by the Lord! What a comforting thought is here! How well calculated it is to deliver the Lord's people from utter despondency in respect to themselves and each other! The all-important thoughts to be kept in mind are, Am I still the Lord's? Am I still trusting in the precious blood? Am I still consecrated to the Lord and His righteous way? If these can be answered in the affirmative we can still realize that we are God's children, and that our hands are still in His; that the spirit of begetting...has not perished; and that it is God's will that we should recover ourselves as quickly as possible from any stumbling, and looking well at the difficulties and trials which led us into it, we should fortify our characters against those difficulties as respects the future, and thus go on really stronger. R3157,c2,p1

**The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them
that fear Him and delivereth them. [Psa. 34:7](#)**

Encampment—a continued and abiding presence. R3441,c1,p2

During the Gospel Age it has been God's will that the Spiritual House of Israel should walk by faith and not by sight, and therefore it would be inappropriate after the Church was fully established to expect angels to appear, to manifest themselves outwardly....The followers of Christ have the Bible and the invisible ministries of the holy angels to provide for their interests and to providentially guard and guide their affairs. This, to us, is very real and of great comfort. If we had the thought that God was doing all this personally, we would think that He had certainly forgotten *us*. But having the assurance of His Word that not a hair of our heads can fall to the ground without our Father's attention, our mind can rest in the fact that He accomplishes His purposes in Christ for His children through the ministrations of the holy angels.

R5635,c1,p1; c2,p2

**He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. [Psa. 91:1](#)**

This secret place of the Most High, Beloved, is the place of intimate communion and fellowship with God, through the blessed privilege of prayer and through faith in His precious Word and His promised providential care. ...Oh, how precious is this hiding place! What rest and refreshment we find in the midst of the commotion that is even now bestirring the whole world....Here we find rest, peace, light and joy, which the world can neither give nor take away. R1788,c1,p2,3"Abide under the shadow of the Almighty"—as typed by the cloud covering the typical Tabernacle, which symbolized the Lord's presence and protection. R1913,c2,p1

**"EXCEEDING GREAT AND
PRECIOUS PROMISES"**

NEW TESTAMENT

**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and
heirs according to the promise. [Gal. 3:29](#)**

To "be Christ's," therefore, evidently means a great deal more than faith, respectability and good endorsement. It means to *belong* to Christ;—to be His, body, soul and spirit;—to be His today and forever; His servant, to do His *will* in His *way* and at His *time*; when convenient and pleasurable, and when inconvenient, painful and difficult. It means furthermore, that we cannot *belong* to anyone else in this complete sense, for no man can serve two masters. Here comes in a difficulty for those who *belong* to secret or other societies. The laws, professions and customs of these are almost certain to conflict with or infringe upon a *full* consecration to Christ.

R1697,c1,p1

Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. [Phil. 1:6](#)

Let us not forget that the work is the Lord's, in the sense that His strength supplied to us is vouchsafed to accomplish it, and that He who has begun the good work in us is able to complete it; and He will do so, if we let Him; i.e., if we follow His leading, doing His will. R2124,c1,p1

But how few Christians comparatively, have this full assurance of faith....The few who can enter fully into sympathy with the Apostle...(here) have therein a great joy, a great blessing, a great rest of heart which others do not possess. R2642,c1,p4

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. [Phil. 2:13](#)

He works in us, to will and to do, through these exceeding great and precious promises and the glorious prospects and rewards that attach to them; but the amount that He will work in us and the results that will be worked out through these promises, depend upon us. ...We could neglect the word of His promise, neglect the various means of grace which He provides for our strengthening, establishing and upbuilding in the knowledge and grace of the truth. And thus neglecting His provisions we would proportionately fail to abide in His love—fail to obtain the promised favors. The Apostle intimates this, saying:—"Keep yourselves in the love of God." *Jude 21*. R3021,c2,p2

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. [Heb. 3:14](#)

The spirit of discontent looks away from the heavenly manna of Divine provision, longing for other food of their own provision or of other earthly supply. The Lord grants such an opportunity of feasting to the full on what they are desiring....The Bible supplies the Manna of Divine Truth. The truth needs to be gathered, ground and baked, but it is God's provision. It is wholesome and nutritious, it is the very thing that we, as the people of God, need for our strengthening and perfecting. Yet some crave the flesh pots of Egypt—the world's theories. Then He allows these to come within their reach. They fill themselves with Higher Criticism and Evolutionary theories, and as a result perish as New Creatures, cease to be the people of God, cease to walk in the Master's footsteps. They are consumed by the fire, or fever, which the errors they crave produce. R5306,c2,bottom; R5307,c1,p1

**Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time
of need. [Heb. 4:16](#)**

But to have this help in time of need we must invoke it. Every day and every hour is indeed a time of need; hence our necessity of living in an atmosphere of prayer—to pray without ceasing. R1802,top

Those who are the Lord's true people feel so aggrieved at their failures that they are promptly led to the throne of grace that they may obtain mercy and find grace to help in future time of need, but others take their failures lightly and fail to profit by them accordingly....The sentiment of the consecrated is well expressed by the poet, who says: "Oh, may no earth-born cloud arise

**If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples
indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall
make you free. [John 8:31,32](#)**

To continue in the doctrine set forth in the inspired writings, to study and meditate upon them, to trust implicitly in them, and faithfully to conform our characters to them, is what is implied in continuing in the Word of the Lord. R3153,c2,p2

Blessed promise!...Dearly beloved, having received this favor from the Lord, shall we not continue in it, giving no heed to seducing doctrines? And shall we not be faithful to it under all circumstances, defending it against every assault, and with it bearing its reproach? Let us prove our appreciation of it by our loyalty and faithfulness to it. R3154,c2,p1

**And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My
sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. [2 Cor. 6:18](#)**

What a promise! What a suggestion!—that we, by nature defiled and imperfect, should not only have the notice of our sovereign Creator, but should be invited to become His children and be given the assurance of His parental affection for us—that "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that reverence Him." How wonderful it seems! And then, as the Apostle elsewhere declares, this is not the end of the matter, but merely the beginning, for He says, "If children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." R5739,c2,p2

**And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

[Phil. 4:7](#)

In this text the Apostle differentiates between the mind and the heart. The heart represents the affections. The Apostle urges not only that we should have good feelings in the matter, but that our minds should be at rest....The text does not refer to our own peace, but to the peace of God, the peace which comes to us through a realization of God's power, of His goodness and willingness to hold us by His right hand as His children. This peace stands guard continually, as a sentinel, to challenge every hostile or worrying thought or fear. It so keeps the Christian's mind that he at heart has peace with the Lord, fellowship, communion; and it guards his mind also, his reasoning faculties, instructing him and assuring him respecting the Divine power, wisdom and love. R4898,c1,p3,4

**Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial
which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened
unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers
of Christ's sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed,
ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. [1 Pet. 4:12,13](#)**

We are forewarned to think not strange of the *fiery* trial that shall surely try us if we are indeed the sons of God and soldiers of Christ....These things should be expected and carefully prepared for by the Christian soldier. Peter intimates that the power by which we are to resist the adversary is the power of faith—"whom *resist, steadfast in the faith.*" And John expresses the same thought—"That is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." ([1 John 5:4](#))...Faith must grasp the exceeding great and precious promises of God and appreciate their value. Faith must lay hold also upon the power of God and find the grace to help in every time of need. R1859,c2,p5,6

**Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and
precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers
of the Divine nature. [2 Pet. 1:4](#)**

By these—by obedience to them....Oh, how wonderful that the great Creator should condescend not only to redeem sinners but to urge, to entice them to receive His bounties and blessings!
R3059,c1,p4

The exceeding great and precious promises are unfolded to us gradually, as we prove faithful and go on, in order that by these—by the strength and courage which they infuse—we may be enabled so to run as to obtain the prize. C220,p2

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[1 John 1:9](#)

These things are written not to cultivate in us the thought that we may be overtaken with faults through carelessness...and then go to the Lord for forgiveness. Quite the contrary, these assurances of Divine favor and willingness to forgive are designed to have upon our hearts a mellowing influence which will make us all the more careful to avoid sin....We may keep so closely in touch with the Lord in the spirit of our minds that we may have continual fellowship with Him: and by confessing our faults and seeking His forgiveness we may continue to the end of our journey clean from sin, even though we must still acknowledge the imperfections of the flesh. R2235,c2,p5; R2236,c2,p2