

Everything Required for Life and Godliness: by Graham Mol

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

This is one of those amazing, life-transforming truths we find in Scripture. Written by the Apostle Peter to believers living in different cities and contexts it is a word to those who belong to Christ living in trying and difficult times and so it remains just as relevant today as it did back then.

Peter begins his letter with the following opening lines before delivering the statement that is our focus:

2 Peter 1:1-3

Simeon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those who have received a faith equal to ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

It is by HIS DIVINE POWER, the power of God, by the Holy Spirit. Peter uses the Greek word *dynamis* which means inherent power or power residing within by virtue of its nature. This is God's inherent power.

EVERYTHING – this means any and every thing. It is all-inclusive. Everything for – pertaining to – life and godliness (Christlikeness). That word life includes so much, all that we experience. It's all the joys, the struggles, the blessings and the obstacles. I love how there is nothing too complicated or mundane for God to be involved in our lives. Godliness refers to our spiritual lives, our moral character, that which is eternally significant.

THROUGH indicates the means by which we experience or access this divine power. It is through knowledge of Him – knowing Christ. We've spoken before about this not just being head knowledge but rather an all-encompassing knowing. Knowing more fully, knowledge of the truth that transforms.

We are called by His own GLORY and GOODNESS. Who He is and what He's done. Christ's life, His example, His sacrifice calls to us.

2 Peter 1:4

By these (glory and goodness) 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.

By His glory – His power and might – His very being of life, truth and the way. By His goodness: His mercy, grace, sacrificial love, generosity and kindness. By THESE He has given us very great and precious promises. Do you understand how great His promises are? Are His promises precious to you?

The promise of His love, His presence, His security, His provision, His care, that He sees and knows us, that He is working for good in our lives.

These promises, and God being of His word means the fulfilment of these promises in His time, allows us to share in the divine nature. What Peter means by that, to share in the divine nature, is that we get to experience who God is. We are united to Christ, Christ who is our life. His righteousness is ours. His glory shines in our lives.

Thereby we escape the corruption, the decay in life we see in the world around us. No good thing lasts. We see the consequences of evil in the world. But He calls us higher, He lifts us up from the muck

and grime. He calls us to something better, something eternal and good. And how? By His Divine Power.

It's an amazing statement that Peter makes, an incredible truth. But in following verses Peter makes it clear that it should have application in our lives. Because of this we should see transformation and progress in our lives and He gives us a way in which we can measure this in the verses that follow. This is really helpful to have something to benchmark our progress. Rather than rely on our feelings of progress or transformation. What we feel is important and it's vital that we listen to and seek to understand how we feel but we also need to remember that our feelings can be wrong or mistaken. They can lead us astray. There is also an aspect of spiritual warfare that can bring feelings of discouragement or hopelessness. If we're basing the measure of progress or transformation in our spiritual lives on feelings alone that can be a problem.

2 Peter 1:5-7

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

To supplement is to add to or furnish our faith. Think of a song – simple melody of faith – enhanced by the harmonies of these virtues. These qualities create a beautiful song of worship unto the Lord.

Faith in Jesus is what distinguishes Christians from the world around them. Trust in our Saviour brings us into the family of God. It is the foundation of all the other qualities of the Christian life.

To this we add goodness which is moral excellence, doing the right thing. We grow in knowledge of God's word, of the truth, revealed by the Holy Spirit. This leads to self-control, when we are not controlled by sinful desires and impulses. We develop endurance, faithfulness through the storms of life, strength to continue doing good. We grow in godliness, piety and reverence toward God in all we do. All these all pertain to one's inner life, but this spills out into caring for others, brotherly love. This is perfect by love, the agape, sacrificial love, desiring the highest good for others.

These are the qualities or virtues that we should see developing in our lives as we follow Christ as we tap into the divine power of God which gives us everything we need for life and godliness. We can reflect on our lives, on our conduct and ask do I see these qualities developing? Do I see them in increasing measure?

2 Peter 1:8

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we do not grow in our spiritual lives we risk the danger of being useless (ineffective) and unfruitful (unproductive) in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter is talking about immature believers. Those who have come to know Christ but have not grown in their spiritual lives. People who have stagnated in their journey with the Lord and it may even not be for lack of effort. When we start to rely on our own ability, our own power, we can burn out and become ineffective.

The good news is, and we can draw encouragement from the fact that, His divine power has given us everything that we need for life and godliness. His Holy Spirit at work in our lives enables us to grow. Through the knowledge of Him... All we need to do is seek Him:

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

Last week Calven ended off his sermon speaking about what it means to seek the Lord. For if we are to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding, we need to grow in our knowing Him, our relationship with Him. That all begins with a simple thing: seek the Lord. I encourage you to go back and listen to last week's sermon and grab the sermon notes off the Church website on the sermons page.

God is calling us to seek Him – to seek His face. To find Him in all of life, in our every day. That’s where we start. Then we will then see the results of His divine power at work in our lives.

Psalm 27

My Stronghold. Of David.

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom should I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
whom should I dread?

² When evildoers came against me to devour my flesh,
my foes and my enemies stumbled and fell.

³ Though an army deploys against me,
my heart will not be afraid;
though a war breaks out against me,
I will still be confident.

⁴ I have asked one thing from the LORD;
it is what I desire:

to dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
gazing on the beauty of the LORD
and seeking him in his temple.

⁵ For he will conceal me in his shelter
in the day of adversity;
he will hide me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be high
above my enemies around me;
I will offer sacrifices in his tent with shouts of joy.
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ LORD, hear my voice when I call;
be gracious to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says this about you:
“Seek his face.”

LORD, I will seek your face.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me;
do not turn your servant away in anger.
You have been my helper;
do not leave me or abandon me,
God of my salvation.

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me,
the LORD cares for me.

¹¹ Because of my adversaries,
show me your way, LORD,
and lead me on a level path.

¹² Do not give me over to the will of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
breathing violence.

¹³ I am certain that I will see the LORD’s goodness
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart be courageous.
Wait for the LORD.