

Making One's Calling and Election Sure

“1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 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. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:1-11 KJV)

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. As you trust God and live your life for Him the grace of God and His peace will reign in your heart and life being rooted and build up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. **You will be the great blessing of God as you remain in Christ and His Word remains in you. “7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7 KJV)**

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”: His grace for us has given us all what we need. Before we reach the point of need His provision is there for us; but His provision for us is given to sustain us and to maintain our life in Godliness. **In other word if you want to live a Godly life for God you will find His provision is there beside you. But if you live your own lifestyle which is away from God's plan and purpose you will not find that provision there that will make your life easy and effective. If you live your own life, then you will be always in need and in constant troubles.**

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises”: The question that we may ask is this: ‘How we can receive God grace and provision in times of need?’ And this is the answer: *** We receive His provision through His promises that we read and have in the Bible. “20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20) * But in every promise of God there is a condition. The promise of God will not be fulfilled unless you had obeyed the condition that God had put to fulfill that promise. For example let us read this promise, “33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33 KJV) The promise of God here in this verse, that all these things around you that you like**

and wish will be added to you. But what you need to do is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, to live and dedicate your life to God, then all what you need shall be added to you. The promises that God give us are His way to nurture us and to discipline us to live and to be in the truth. Therefore through them we may achieve the following things:-

A. “that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature”: * When you stand firm on the Word of God and the sound teaching that we have from the Bible you will be a divine vessel of God where the Holy Spirit lives in you and you can proclaim, ***“20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20 KJV) * And you will be the good example to others and you can say to the them, “1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1 KJV) As well as, “9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.” (Philippians 4:9 KJV) In such a way you will be an instrument in the hand of God to reach others and to impart His grace and His Salvation to them. “20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20 KJV) Therefore, “13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” (Romans 6:13 KJV) In obeying God and His Word we become part of the divine nature that God would use for His glory, “13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13 KJV)***

B. “having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”: In observing and obeying the commands of God and His conditions in His promises, then we are in the safe way, protected and spared unnecessarily troubles, hardships, sufferings and tears. The promises of God teach us to sin not and to deny ungodliness, ***“11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” (Titus 2:11-12 KJV) * The promises of God teaches us to say ‘No’ to lies, stealing, cheating, boasting, gossiping, slandering, usury, immoralities, drinking, gambling, etc. * God's promises are God's protection for us.***

What Apostle Peter meant in saying, ***“2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,”*** is clear to us now. His Word and His promises lift us up and sustain us and protect us and provide for us the atmosphere that would help us to live our lives for God.

The Lord had acted, but man need to respond; God had done His part and man now ought to cooperate and be responsible toward God. Our Lord sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, ***“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17 KJV) And now man need to take the opportunity to respond to what Jesus had done on the cross to save us from our sins.***

Jesus suffered and died on the cross; His blood was shed as atonement for our sins. He was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their life.

Faith in Jesus should be manifested in the life of the believers by deeds and by achievements. Truly we are saved by God and not by any man work or favor, **“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)** But after we had faith in Jesus we should do the works that God had prepared for us to do. **“10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)**

Apostle Peter emphasized to the believers that they needed to be effective and productive, and for this very reason and to make us able to escape the degradation and the dissolution of this world, and be worthy of His grace, and to enable us to approach the stage of wholesome thinking and wholesome living, God through **2 Peter 1:1-11**, outlined the milestones for the Christian’s soul development and the booming of his personality as God’s Word recommend us to add to our faith the following milestones:-

1. Virtue or goodness: God saved us in order that after our salvation we will start to serve Him, **“1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1 KJV)** God saved us not for us to go and do our own will and plan and projects. God saved us not for us to go and be famous, rich and enjoy life. But God saved us in order to do the works that He prepared for us to do. Therefore, we ought to be effective workers for the Lord to serve Him in a perfect way, therefore **“15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)**

2. Knowledge: Not only in the fields of our professions, but to equal importance in the Word of God that comes from the continuous reading of the Bible, careful study of the Scriptures, and measure any interpretation of the passages in accordance to the whole Word of God. The Bible tells us the following: **“6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” (Hosea 4:6)** Therefore, we need to know the Word of God on a good way so that we will be able to follow God’s commands. We need to know the Word of God so that we can teach others His ways and disciple them according to the truth. **For all the scriptures are the Word of God, and in addition to that is the Rhema Word that the Holy Spirit brings to us and that comes out of His mouth, that will reach us being the voice of the Holy Spirit. Then we will be able to do what God wants from us to achieve, and when we apply that knowledge in our life in accordance to our faith in Him we will have the wisdom. Such knowledge and wisdom will make our life fruitful. “6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6 KJV)**

3. Temprance or self-control: Christians are called to overcome their sinful nature.

We are not called to sin less but we are called to sin not. *** We need to stop when it comes to sin. We need to control our mouth from speaking evil, our mind from thinking bad, and our eyes from seeing wrong things. * Every part of our body ought to be under the control of the Holy Spirit and not our sinful nature.**

4. Patience or perseverance: We are called to maintain what we had achieved, **“8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.” (2 John 8 KJV)** *** Some Christians their achievement are fluctuating, up and down. That should not be the case for you. You ought to persevere to keep the same level of achievement. * You need to be steadfast in maintaining the same righteous style of living in facing difficult times and in the trials; and to wait patiently for the appointments of God and not to be disappointed. “2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:2-4 KJV)**

5. Godliness: *** Which is the ability to differentiate the right and the wrong in the eyes of God and to live in a Godly way of living, and away from the wrong ways. This is the attitude of God-fearing man who seeks God, endeavor to know the ways of God and walk in them. * As Christians we should know the doctrine and what we ought to stand for; we should labor in Word and in doctrines. “16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” (1 Timothy 4:16 KJV)** *** We ought to live what we believe and teach that to others.**

6. Brotherly kindness: We ought to show kindness to one another. We need to care for one another, **“2 Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2 KJV)** We ought to help those who are in need; we ought to support those who are in troubles. We ought to care for the widows, the orphans, the sick and those who are in old age. **“7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7 KJV)**

7. Charity or love: Is the crown of the all the milestones that we discussed. Charity is giving first, and it is not about emotion. Charity is not only to the worthy one, but also to the unworthy and even extend to our enemies. **“8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” (Romans 13:8 KJV)** We should persevere to love in the same way that Jesus loved us and gave His life sacrificially to us. **“15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15 KJV)** *** Our love to others should not be conditional or arise out of interest or mutual benefit. * We offer the same love of Christ to others, so that those who respond to our message they will become part of the family of God. * And those who do not accept our message we need to continue to pray for them till they realize their wrong way of living, convicted by the Holy Spirit, repent and come back to God and be part of His family.**

My Dear and Beloved: The above are great and valuable qualities that we need to possess, and it is right to memorize all these landmarks. After the above description we can review ourselves and find where we are from the above milestones, and

what we still lack from them so we can work with the Holy Spirit to obtain them.

Obtaining the above characters makes you a productive person and a dynamic member in the body of Christ, and mutates you to a light for the darkness that surrounds you. For gaining these ingredients with increase measure and fostering them will transform you to be more like Jesus and to be a perfect example of Christianity. And you will show Christ to others, for they cannot see Him alone but they will see Him through you. **“8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:8 KJV)** Therefore, don't be short sighted; work it out with God and make your calling and election sure and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

But if you are not having the above marks and characters and you are not working to obtain it, you are not only blind but in the midst of darkness as well, and you cling to Christ only by name, **“9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”. (2 Peter 1:9 KJV)**

“10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:10-11 KJV) **“17 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 steadfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:17-18 KJV)** * Christ is coming soon and you need to be ready for His coming, having all the milestones that we discussed in this message, faith, goodness, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. * You need to have them all and in great quantity, so in such you will be a successful worker and minister for Christ that you will never fail. * Your salvation shall be sure and your name shall continue in the book of life, and you shall receive a rich welcome and greetings in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ upon His second coming. * Now commit yourself and pray to God to equip you in order to do His will. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the eternal life that we received in Jesus. Lord thank you for your Word, for all your precious promises, and the teaching we received in this message. Lord, thank you for all the material blessings that you gave us and thank you for your provision, that you provide us with all our needs.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your worldliness and your yoke with non believers and many friends. Repent of your lust, immoralities, and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent of your selfishness, doing your own will, lack of commitment and non willingness to give to God your time, your effort and your material things. Repent of your lack of patience and self-control. Repent of your lack of brotherly kindness and charity. Repent from your non willingness to serve God and serve others and bring

them to Christ. Repent from wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media, News and games. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word in the Bible and studying the Scripture, and your lack of prayer. Lord I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord guide me with your Word and sustain me to obey all your commands and decrees, and to live my life for being part of your divine power. Lord help me to add to my faith, goodness, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. Help me Lord to possess these characters and qualities with increasing measures so I can serve you and serve people and bring them to you. Lord I commit my life into your hand to live in holiness and to persevere in facing trials, having faith in you and trusting you that you will provide all my needs. Lord prepare me for your coming to go with you when you come to take us, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to work out with you to have these milestones; faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity, and to have them with increasing measure. Lord protect them and provide for them so that they will continue to live for you, serving you, being part of the divine nature, and setting good example to others to follow you.

Lord we pray for us as a church that we will continue to serve you, to be part of the divine nature and that we will do all what we can to escape the corruption in this world. Lord protect us, our families, workers and ministers from all the temptations of the devil and its demons; we come against all that in the name of Jesus. Lord we commit ourselves to walk before you in holiness in accordance to your will and plan for us. Lord lead us to help people who are in sin and bondages and are looking for help from you to be delivered. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God,' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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