

If you have a Bible, go ahead and turn to second Peter. We finished first Peter not long ago and so now we are going Continue and Book. Well they are both written by Peter and share a lot of similarities but have different themes and different focuses.

1 Peter is primary focused on living in exile. So most of the book is about suffering in persevering and getting through the struggle in the hardship of life. Second, Peter is a little more positive and encouraging. Second, Peter is more focused on living and growing in sanctification. Who will also touch false prophets, and then the return of Christ in the day of the Lord.

I thought that this book would be good since we just finished 1 Peter. And we've also been talking about the day of the Lord and Joel and so 2 Peter will also talk about that coming day of the Lord and it felt to me like these books would kind of go together.

This morning, as we look at chapter 1, the second Peter. He is going to be talking about growing and godliness. But the primary phrase that I want to watch onto and I want to see that kind of guides this chapter is this idea that we are partakers in the divine nature. Peter uses a different way to talk about growing in sanctification and becoming like Jesus and growing and holiness. He says that we are partaking in the divine nature. And so as we go through this, I want to talk a little bit about what does it mean to be a part of the divine nature. My hope is that as we read this particular way of viewing sanctification can radically change how we live.

I. Partake in the Divine Nature (v. 1-4)

Part of sanctification is not just getting better today than you were yesterday.

Sanctification is not just being conformed into the image of Jesus.

Sanctification does not just mean we become more holy as we ascend and become more truly ourselves.

Part of what sanctification means is that we get to partake in the nature of God.

We gotta do some more set up before we talk about that.

Verse 1, **"Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:"**

Notice who this letter is going to.

His focus here is not how we are living in exile.

Here, his focus is on more broad on our faith.

Because whoever comes to Jesus in faith.

Whoever trusts in Him alone for salvation is on equal standing even with the apostles like Peter.

Not through our own, works not through our own ability, but by the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

This is part of what it meant when Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

It was not just to give us forgiveness, but it was to give us righteousness.

It was so that now we can be declared righteous before God.

If you have put your faith in Jesus, and in the eyes of God, you are as holy and as righteous as Peter and James and John and Paul not because of what you did today because of what Jesus did yesterday.

Verse 2, **"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."**

This is not just a generic greeting everyone does.

This is Peter asking, and hoping, and praying that the grace, and the peace, and the knowledge of God would multiply in our lives.

This has been a hard season for many of you.

Has your peace been multiplied?

Has your grace for others been multiplied?

If we are growing in our sanctification, it should be.

Verse 3, **"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,"**

Look at what we have been given.

We have been given everything that we need.

God is giving you everything pertaining to life and godliness.

What does that mean?

It means that God has given you every single thing that you need in order to live a godly life.

God has given you every single thing that you need in order that you follow Jesus with your life.

God has given you all things that you need in order to be a Christian

And this all comes through the knowledge of God.

There's two different Greek words for knowledge.

The one he is using here is talking about relational knowledge.

It is not just because we know facts about God or that we have learned intellectual things about God, but because we know him.

We have put our faith in a God that we know, and that we trust and that we believe.

It was a knowledge in the same way that you would say that you know your family.

The way you would say, I know my wife. I know my kids.

God, who is giving us all things has called us to His own glory into excellence.

Because knowing God changes everything.

And we know Him because He called us and invited us to participate in His glory and His excellence.

Some preachers can make it seem like the glory of God is something self-centered.

But what you need to understand is that God calls us invites us to participate in His glory and in His excellence.

He shares it with us, even though He doesn't owe us.

Verse 4, "by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises,

And God has also granted us incredible promises.

Think about some of the great promises of God.

The promise that He will never leave us for us.

The promise that He will forgive our every sin that we have committed in the past in the present or in the future.

The promise that He will be with us even to the end of the age.

The promise that His love for us is steadfast.

Promise that even when we are faithless, He will be faithful.

The promise that He will return and He will come back again.

The promise that He will not leave our bodies to rot in the grave, but we will be resurrected.

And the promise will we wait for resurrection we will get to go and be present with Jesus.

Those are great promises.

And our God keeps His 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."

So now this is the key, for we may become part of the divine nature.

This does not mean that we are becoming God.

It is not this kind of process where we are taking over God we're all becoming our own individual gods.

But we are being transformed to become like God.

You see the new creation that God made in you.

The nature that you have received is not just a fresh start on your old nature.

Now we get to have a divine nature.

In this really should change the way that we view and we talk about sanctification.

Because sanctification is not just trying to get better.

Sanctification is not just working on ourselves.

Sanctification is a glorious privilege where we are getting to participate in what it means to be like God.

This is an enormous blessing and enormous privilege.

This participation helps us escape the corruption of the world.
We no longer now have to be controlled by our sinful desires.
Yes, they're still remains the pull and the tug of sin.

But it no longer hold you in its chains.
Now you are free to say no to resist
Now you can go a different way.
I will tell you that just learning to think about signification this way has
been life-giving for me.
It is not just that we are given a new nature.
We have been given the nature of Christ.
This is what it means to be in Christ.
It's also helped me see learn that this isn't just something that happens .
There is a sense in which growing sanctification is mysterious and mystical.
We are getting to be partakers of the divine nature.

II. Partake in sanctification (v. 5-15)

Because we have been given this incredible gift.
Because we are participating in the divine nature of Christ of God.
We need to use it.

We cannot act like children who might neglect a great gift.
They get an awesome toy and play with the box instead.
It's adorable when it's Christmas and everyone's happy.
It's rebellious when we are rejecting the incredible gift that God has given
us and we decide we don't need it.

How are we to use it? How do we partake?

Verse 5, **"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith"**

For this reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue.
A couple things I want you to notice here
First, partaking in the divine nature, partaking in sanctification takes work.
It is Work.

Christianity is not meant to be approached with a lazy “hey I prayed the prayer. I grew up a Christian. I’ve been baptized. I gave my life to Jesus once I am good.”

Because of the gospel, we are then to make every effort.

We should be working, actively with all that we are to supplement our faith.

The next question might be what does that mean?

Because it might make it seem like our faith is insufficient.

As if it’s nice that you’ve come and you’ve put your faith in Jesus, but now you need more.

It’s not that.

It’s that our faith is the foundation of our lives.

Faith is the starting point.

The gospel begins with faith.

You have to actually put your faith in your trust in Jesus Christ.

And then, once we begin there, we move from faith into growing and participating in the divine nature.

He will show us different ways practically what that should look like.

But all of these things make any sense without the foundation of faith.

You can do all the right things, but if you don’t do them with faith, you’re doing the wrong things .

We need to make sure that we aren’t getting it backwards.

Faith is the foundation.

Don’t build a house on sand.

But if you have a firm foundation of faith, then you need to build something on it.

Otherwise, the Christian life is just an empty slab of concrete and you invite me over and say look at my beautiful house.

And I’ll say wow that’s an incredible start.

I think you’re missing something.

So we have to make every effort to partake, or to participate.

"with virtue,"

Continue to supplement your faith with virtue.

So part of our efforts is having virtue.

Virtues is most likely forgotten idea in our age.

Virtue is your character.

Character that is revealed in actions, like honesty, humility, kindness.

Our faith should come out in your actions as we grow.

It's one of the things that we should do as we participate in the divine nature is trying to grow in virtue.

"and virtue with knowledge,"

We also as we grow on virtue should grow in knowledge .

This is the different word of knowledge. This is not growing in a relational knowledge of God that we should probably do that as well, but it is growing in our intellectual knowledge of God.

Part of how we grow and participate in God is that we are continually trying to learn about Him.

We are seeking to know more about God today than we did yesterday .

We should not be content with what we know about God.

We should be wanting to learn more.

I put a lot of time and effort into studying God's word into studying during the week.

Trying to read Greek and Hebrew.

Pouring over church, history and reading the ancient believers have gone before us trying to see what they have to teach.

I'm reading the passage preaching over and over and over again sometime for weeks.

Let me tell you how I feel often when I come up to preach.

There are moments that as I am reading the scriptures from the pulpit I see something that I've never seen before.

Most of the time we've preached through every single verse of a book and we finished and we're ready to go into something else. I finally feel like I'm

just beginning to understand the book and now I might be able to preach it.

I'm still growing.

And that should be true of all of us.

We should always be striving to learn more.

"and knowledge with self-control,"

We should grow in our self-control

We should be in control of ourselves.

There should be nothing that you can see the pops up on the news that makes you lose your mind and lose control of your tongue and how you speak and how you react.

Should temptation walk across your path or come up on your screen they can make you lose control your desires of your body.

Our world is out of control.

Our world doesn't like self-control. It does not value self-control.

The values of the world is to embrace and follow the desires of your body, but it's weird to people who are in control who were growing in our self-control.

We need to be those kinds of people, because the Holy Spirit controls us.

"and self-control with steadfastness,"

We are to be people who are steadfast.

It's not that we're in control of ourselves one day in the next day we're out of control.

No, we continue when we are faithful.

We stand fast in the storms and turmoil of life.

Our faith cannot be wrecked and destroyed from day to day.

We continue we hold fast to God.

"and steadfastness with godliness,"

We grow steadfastness and we grow in godliness.

Part of the holiness that we become more and more like God and more and more like Jesus.

We are sinning less and less.

We become more like God.

The more we partake in sanctification, the more we are sanctified.

"and godliness with brotherly affection,"

We grow up in our brotherly affection.

That as we are participating in the divine nature of God, we do this by growing in our love for our brothers and sisters in the faith.

Not just for the people that we like and not just for the ones that we want to hang out with.

But that we are growing, and are genuine love for those people who are in our church body whether we ever would hang out with him outside these walls or not.

"and brotherly affection with love."

And we grow in love.

Love begins with loving our own brothers and sisters with continues to grow into love.

Because if you were participating in the nature of God, you are participating in the divine nature of love itself.

That should make you more filled with love.

Now one thing I want you to see is that these are not a progression.

They are tied together, but it's not OK. Step one virtue step two is knowledge step three is self-control.

It doesn't mean that you get to wait until the other things before before you start working on your brotherly, affection and love.

No, all of these are tied together and it's a never-ending continuing cycle and growth in love leads to growth in knowledge and growth.

Steadfastness leads to growth in virtue and vice versa and altogether.

So there is mysterious way that all of this happens

Verse 8, **"For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

We have to grow in these things if we don't want to be unfruitful and ineffective.

If you want an unfruitful and ineffective life as a follower of Jesus, don't try to grow.

Effectiveness and fruitfulness, for Jesus begins with sanctification.

It does not begin with ability. It does not begin with giftedness or talent or charisma.

It begins with following Jesus and growing and participating in the divine nature of God and sanctification.

Verse 9, **"For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins."**

This one is scary too if we lack these qualities, we have become blind and forgotten that we have been cleansed from sin.

He is not saying that you are losing your salvation.

He is saying you have forgotten what God has done for you.

You are living and acting as if you have not been cleansed from all of your sins and set free.

You have amnesia and you need to remember.

Verse 10, **"Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall."**

Because of this, it should make us even more diligent to confirm our calling in our election.

Means that we should live like it and act like it.

Should be making every effort to participate in the divine nature that God has called us too.

Because if we practice these things we will never fall.

Another wonderful promise.

Verse 11, **"For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."**

And if we continue in practicing these and continuing to not fall, then we will be richly entering into the eternal kingdom of the Lord in Jesus Christ. No, I don't think that this means that we have to be practicing all of these things and do it greatly in order to be saved.

You have to be at least on some level your faith is not true.

But there is a difference between so will be welcoming the eternal kingdom.

Scripture does talk about different levels of rewards for those who follow Jesus.

Those who are faithful or obedient, will be more richly rewarded than those who are unfaithful to fall.

But the key with all of this, is we need to actively partake in sanctification. It takes work.

It is like clearing a vast wilderness and making it habitable.

There will be plenty of ups and downs. It won't be easy and it will take your whole life.

But you need to put in work. It won't happen on it's own.

III. Partake in remembrance (12-21)

We need to remember what we believe.

We are gathered together here assembled as the body of Jesus to worship our savior.

Not just because we think that it helps us encourages us and gives us strength to to go through the week, but because we believe that these things are true.

Verse 12, **"Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have."**

Peter is intending to remind us of these things.

His reminder is to not forget the truth of the Scriptures.

Our memory should be active.

When my wife asked me if I remembered to write that check.

She's not just asking if the thought "yes Bri asked me to do that" Passed through my head and came back to my recollection.

She's asking me did that come through your head and then you act upon that remembrance.

Because remembering and doing nothing, doesn't really count, does it?

Verse 13, "**I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,**"

Peter is working hard to use his body now to stir up our memory to encourage us.

Verse 14, "**since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.**"

Peter is doing this because he realizes that his death is coming soon

Remember the promise that Jesus made him that he was going to be murdered for his faith.

And indeed, Peter will be crucified upside down in Rome.

So he knows and recognizes that this day is coming soon and he wants to spend his last days reminding us of the gospel and Christ.

Verse 15, "**And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.**"

Again, Peter is getting to the end of his life and he's making plans.

He's thinking about what it's gonna be like after him.

If we are lucky enough to understand and recognize that our death is imminent and it is coming, we usually want to start making arrangements.

We wanna start having those last conversations.

Peter is doing this

And what he wants us to remember.

What he wants us to take with us and hold onto is to remember that everything he has written is true and from God.

Verse 16, **"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty."**

Peter saying I didn't make this stuff up.

He wasn't smart enough to come up with all this stuff.

He was just an average fisherman.

He didn't invent all these ideas.

He's just telling us what Jesus told him.

He was an eyewitness to the majesty of Jesus.

See the scriptures are the very word of God.

And one of the reasons that we believe that we trust is the word of God is because the people who wrote it, they heard God, they witnessed God, and they told us about it.

At the end of His life, Peter wants us to know this is true.

Verse 17, **"For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"**

Peter could recount any number of things that he was witness to.

He was with Jesus every day for three years and saw countless miracles, including many of which we don't know about.

Sermons and teachings from Jesus and we haven't got to hear

What keeps coming back to him at the end of his life is the transfiguration.

The moment on the holy mountain where he got to see Jesus in all of His glory.

When Jesus pulled back the veil and showed NOT what his human body and his human nature was, but what God truly looks like.

When Elijah and Moses appeared next to Him and started talking together.

The moment when God's voice itself spoke on that mountain and said this is the son of God.

Verse 18, **"we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain."**

Peter says I heard that voice. I was with Him in that place.

When you read about that story in the gospels, know that I was there.

I think the reason that he chose this story is because he knows his death is approaching, but he knows that the glory is approaching too.

He knows that Jesus that he misses and he cannot wait to see will look like when he sees Him again.

Verse 19, **"And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,"**

Peter wants us to pay attention. He invites us to pay attention.

Do we listen to the prophetic words.

And when he says prophetic words here, he is not just thinking about the words about the future from the profits.

He is thinking about all of the scriptures and all of God's word.

And he is saying that we need to pay attention to it.

We need to listen to it because it is the light in the darkness.

If you were in pitch place and you see a light in the distance, you're gonna go towards it so that you can escape.

You're gonna go towards the lights so that you can see.

This world is a very dark place.

The light is Jesus and we can see Him in the word.

We can know when we can trust it because here it is the light that we need.

This light does not brighten it ultimately to brighten our heart.

They can take our hearts out of the darkness and into the light.

Verse 20, **"knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation."**

Tell us again that no scripture just comes from somebody's opinion.

We didn't invent the stuff.

The apostles don't have 12 different opinions interpretations of what Jesus meant when he said, I am the light of the world.

The writers of the Bible don't have different interpretations of what it meant the Jesus died on the cross for our sins and promised resurrection. It all comes from God.

Verse 21, **"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."**

They wrote these things through the Holy Spirit.

And there really is a sense they're just carried along.

They are the vessels for what God was doing what God was writing.

Yes, they participate in it and some mysterious nature about how it happened but ultimately this is the word of God.

I love this section.

It encourages me and strengthens me, makes me realize and recognize that our words that we have received from Jesus are true and our trustworthy.

This is one of the reasons I love studying the Patristics and early church.

Because over and over it shows the Bible was right.

Peter wants us to remember.

And this remembering will sanctify us as we partake of the divine nature of God.

This is why so often I pray the word of God that will change us and transforms us.

It is not enough to see the light of God's word.

We need to let it change us.

We need to partake of the divine nature.

Partake in sanctification.

And partake in remembrance.

And when we do that, it changes everything about us.