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By Dan Maines

2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1:1

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received the same kind of faith as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

† Peter identifies himself as both servant and apostle, showing humility and authority.

† The "same kind of faith" stresses equality among believers, whether Jew or Gentile.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 5) remembered Peter as a humble yet faithful witness, confirming this self-description.

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

† Grace and peace flow from true knowledge of God through Christ.

† Philo (On the Special Laws 2.56) emphasized knowledge of God as the source of peace, though Peter roots it in Christ alone.

2 Peter 1:3-4

For His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. Through 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 on account of lust.

† Believers are given all they need for life and godliness through Christ.

† To partake in the divine nature is to share in God's holiness and eternal life, not through speculation but through His promises.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 4.22-23) spoke of escaping corruption through God's Spirit, similar to Peter's exhortation.

2 Peter 1:5-7

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in

your brotherly kindness, love.

† Peter outlines a chain of virtues beginning with faith and culminating in love.

† Each virtue builds on the other, showing spiritual maturity is progressive.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 33) listed similar virtues, emphasizing growth in faith leading to love.

2 Peter 1:8-9

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the one who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

† Growth in virtue ensures fruitfulness in Christ, while neglect brings spiritual blindness.

† Forgetting purification is forgetting the cross and baptism which cleansed them.

† Josephus (Wars 5.1.5) described leaders blinded by pride and corruption, a contrast to the vision believers must keep.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choice of you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

† Diligence in faith and virtue confirms God's calling and ensures stability.

† The reward is abundant entrance into Christ's eternal kingdom, which was being established in their day.

† Origen noted that assurance of calling comes through perseverance in holy living.

2 Peter 1:12-13

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder.

† Peter repeats known truths, showing the necessity of constant reminder.

† "Earthly dwelling" points to his body, temporary until his departure.

† Clement of Rome used the same approach, reminding believers of truths they already knew, showing apostolic consistency.

2 Peter 1:14-15

Knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

† Peter knew his death was near, as Christ had foretold in **John 21:18-19**.

† His diligence ensured the church would remember after his passing, showing pastoral care.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.25) records traditions of Peter's martyrdom in Rome under Nero.

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

† Peter assures them the gospel is not myth but eyewitness testimony.

† He refers to the Transfiguration, where Christ's majesty was revealed.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) confirms Christians were mocked for following what some called a "superstition," but Peter insists it was truth seen with his own eyes.

2 Peter 1:17-18

For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a declaration as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory: "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" and we ourselves heard this declaration made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

† Peter recalls the Transfiguration, hearing God's voice affirming Jesus as His Son.

† This eyewitness testimony strengthened the church's confidence in Christ's glory.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QH 11.11-12) speak of God's voice affirming His chosen ones, paralleling Peter's experience.

2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

† The prophetic word, fulfilled in Christ, shines like a lamp in darkness.

† Christ is the morning star, confirming prophecy and bringing light.

† Isaiah 9:2 foretold that those walking in darkness would see a great light, fulfilled in Him.

2 Peter 1:20-21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- † Prophecy is divine, not human invention.
- † Men spoke as they were moved by the Spirit, ensuring Scripture's authority.
- † Josephus (Antiquities 10.10.4) declared that prophets spoke by God's Spirit, confirming Peter's claim.

How it applies to us today

- † 2 Peter 1 reminds us that faith must grow in virtue and love, grounded in God's promises.
- † The testimony of eyewitnesses confirms the truth of Christ's majesty and fulfillment of prophecy.
- † Today, we hold fast to the same word, remembering that prophecy is not myth but Spirit-breathed truth fulfilled in Christ.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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† John 21:18-19 – Christ foretells Peter's death

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