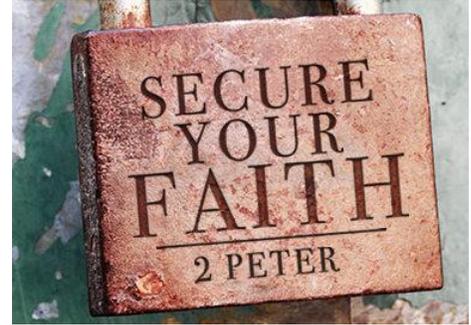


Discussion Guide

October 2, 2016

2 Peter 1:1-11



Icebreaker: Do you have a favorite Bible verse? If so, please share it.

Peter's theme in his second letter is a simple one:

- pursue spiritual maturity through the Word of God
- as a remedy for false teaching and a right response to heretics
- in light of Christ's promised second coming.

"When false teachers begin to whisper their sweet words into the ears of immature Christians, the body of Christ begins to break apart, to lose what makes it distinctive in the first place—faith in the unique person and work of Jesus Christ. We'll see that Peter repeatedly points to the Word of God as the primary means of growth for the Christian (1:4, 19–21; 3:1–2, 14–16)."¹

Read 2 Peter 1:1-4.

Provision

[Q] According to verse 1, how have his readers obtained a faith of equal standing with Peter and the apostles?

[Q] What has Christ's divine power granted to us (vv. 3–4)? How does this happen?

[Q] What do you learn about "all things" from the following verses?

Matthew 6:33

Romans 8:32

[Q] Do you believe that God has given you everything you need for life and godliness? If so, what are the practical implications of this in your life?

Promises

[Q] Part of the "all things" that God has given us are His precious and very great promises (v. 4). Of the hundreds of promises in Scripture, what are one or two that are special to you?

¹ Charles Swindoll, *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*

Participation
Read 2 Peter 1:5-11.

As you review the list of qualities in verses 5-7, which do you need to make every effort to add? Look at the questions below for help in thinking these through.

Virtue/goodness:	When do I need courage to do what's right?
Knowledge:	How am I growing in knowing Jesus better?
Self-control:	How do I struggle against temptations of materialism, laziness, or lust?
Steadfastness:	Am I ever tempted to give up doing things God's way?
Godliness:	Do I have an authentic reverence for God and respect for others?
Brotherly affection:	Who in my life do I need to treat more kindly?
Love: seeks the highest good for others.	Is there someone whose needs I need to put before my own? Someone I need to love unconditionally?

The command in verse 5, *make every effort*, is based on verses 3-4 which is the description of what God has done for us. We are able to *make every effort* because of the effort God is making in us already.

[Q] With that in mind, why do we want to cultivate these qualities? (v. 8)

[Q] According to verse 9, what does the lack of these qualities indicate? What is the relationship between lacking these qualities and forgetting you're forgiven and cleansed?

[Q] Are you encouraged by verses 10-11? Why or why not?

[Q] How will you *make every effort* this week? Be specific.

Pray

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:2 (ESV)