

Everything We Need

2 Peter 1:1-4



Small Group Study, week commencing 19th September 2022

For starters

What do you think you need to live the life God wants you to live?

Introduction

2 *Peter* was written by the disciple and apostle Simon Peter. He was an eyewitness of Jesus' life and death (1:16-18), and was conscious that his own time on earth was coming to an end as Jesus had predicted (1:13-15; compare John 21:18).

As with other letters in the New Testament, it was written to address issues arising in the early church, such as the teaching of false prophets and those who scoffed at the idea of Christ's return, and issues of morality.

The entire study series will be based on the first twelve verses, although this first study will focus on the first four. And although there are some familiar themes, note Peter's insistence in verse 12, "I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them"!

We have called the series "Holy Maths" as there is a lot of addition encouraged in those first twelve verses!

Read

[2 Peter 1:1-12.](#)

Study

1. After introducing himself, Peter addresses his readers: "To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours" (verse 1). What is Peter saying about the source and the nature of their faith?
2. Paul adds a typical Christian greeting of "grace and peace" to the opening words of his letter (verse 2). He literally prays that these things will "increase, grow in numbers, abound" in his readers. Reflect on the words "grace" (unmerited

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kindness and favour) and “peace” (harmony, tranquility, wholeness). What, according to Peter, is God’s channel for these blessings?

Pause

Pause for a couple of minutes and bring to mind some people who need more grace and peace, and pray for them.

Study

3. Peter writes that, “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life” (verse 3). How do you feel about those words? Challenged? Excited? Guilty? Encouraged? Why?

4. Peter repeats a phrase he has used in verse 2, that we have everything we need *through our knowledge of God*. Peter is describing an experiential knowledge, not factual knowledge. You might know Beijing (“It’s the capital of China, population of 21½ million”) but you know Chichester from experience. How, practically, can we know God more?

5. In verse 4 Peter unpacks what he means by “everything we need for a godly life”. God has graciously given us “his very great and precious promises”. Those who trust in these promises - such as, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31) - have escaped the world’s corruption and can now “participate in the divine nature”. That last phrase could mean any (or all!) of the following:

- Being born again (John 3:3) and made new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Becoming vessels of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14-17)
- Becoming those who exhibit what God is like (Galatians 5:22-23)

Do you feel you have ‘enough’ to live a godly life? How can we take advantage of God’s “very great and precious promises” to live the godly lives we are called to live? What reasons might you put forward as explanations for why you don’t live a more godly life?

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Prayer

This series will be a very practical one as we are invited to add to our faith a number of character qualities, but our starting point is a confidence in God that he has given us everything we need to grow in Christ.

Pray for each other, that in studying and applying God's Word together there will be genuine spiritual growth.