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# Sermon Notes

January 21, 2024

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## Divine Power... Precious Promises

2 Peter 1:3-4

### Peter

- ❖ Despite all of Peter's "ups and downs" Jesus never gives up on him
  - Jesus molds and remakes Peter into His own image by transforming him from one degree of glory to another
  - Jesus changes Peter's core identity
- ❖ Still, there is an indelible part of Peter's personality that comes shining through in the opening words of his 2nd epistle
  - normal pattern of a 1st century letter:
    - opening greeting in which the author of the letter identifies himself
    - some sort of thanksgiving
    - the body of the letter
  - 2 Peter
    - Peter identifies himself and offers a greeting
    - Peter jumps straight into the business at hand and starts making his points
    - Peter does not waste any time on preliminaries!!

### Growing in Faith

- ❖ Peter begins immediately to emphasize the way Christ calls, equips and empowers His followers to grow in faith
  - vv/ 3-4 3-4 tell of the incredible resources God makes available to all who are in Christ
  - God's divine power and His precious and great promises
- ❖ Do you ever feel like you are stagnant, spinning your wheels or "plateaued out" when it comes to your Christian growth?
  - how can I experience more consistent growth?
  - is the level of your intimacy with Christ lacking or low?
  - how can I do better at pressing *on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*. (Phil. 3:14)?
- ❖ The pathway to spiritual maturity begins with God's provision
  - God gives every Christian ALL they need to flourish in their spiritual life and to make positive progress in their pursuit of godliness
  - spiritual growth does not come from any power inherent within ourselves
    - your motivation to grow and your ability to grow are gifts that flow to you from God's divine power
    - God gives us *all things!!!*
    - God's power works in our lives to give us supernatural ability to *do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think* (Eph. 3:20)

### Divine Power

- ❖ The same divine power Peter once saw manifested by Christ is put on deposit in the life of every single blood bought follower of Jesus Christ
  - the power supply is always constant
  - however, our reception of Christ's power may be hindered by various impediments
- ❖ What is Christ's power for?
  - to go hard after *all things that pertain to life and godliness*
    - *godliness* = good worship, summarizes the kind of behavior maturing Christians are expected to pursue and possess
    - God gives us all the power and all the resources we need to live lives that are pleasing to Him
  - Christ's power is only made available *through the knowledge of him who called us*
    - such knowledge is deep and genuine
    - this knowledge refers the effective summons by which God, in Christ, brings people into relationship with Himself
- ❖ Rather than getting us bogged down on the hows and whys of what God sovereignly does in election, Peter directs us to consider **WHY** we are called
  - God calls people to Himself so He can work powerfully within them to equip and enable them to pursue and shine forth His own *glory and excellence*
  - like what Peter saw at Jesus' Transfiguration, God's glory is meant to come streaming out of the lives of all whom Christ calls to Himself... a life of moral purity

### Precious and Very Great Promises

- ❖ In Christ, God's greatest and most precious promises are made available to us (2 Corinthians 1:20)
  - Christ followers experience the fulfillment of all these promises in the here and now
  - through these *precious and very great promises*, believers
    - actively participate in God's divine nature
    - are given the means through which they can *escape from the corruption that is in the world*
- ❖ Those who share the eternal life of God and Christ **ESCAPE** the ultimate effects of sin
  - death leads to decay and corruption
  - the "stench" of moral decay
- ❖ Peter wants believers in Christ to know that they can and are meant to escape the smell of death that surrounds them in a world smothered by sinful desires (1 John 2:15-16)
- ❖ Be "the aroma of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:15)

### Personal Reflection

1. To what extent do you look for, receive and rest in God's divine power?
2. As you move through the course of daily life with all of its struggles, how conscious are you of the precious and very great promises God makes available to you in Christ?
3. How is God currently equipping and enabling you to pursue and shine forth His own *glory and excellence*? How well are you cooperating with Him in that?