

WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS
PART 5-ALL THINGS PERTAINING TO LIFE AND GODLINESS
2 PETER 1:3-4

Introduction

Read the Scripture...*2 Peter 1:3-4*. Here is a wonderful TRUTH!

GOD'S DIVINE POWER EQUIPS US WITH ALL THAT WE NEED to LIVE GODLY LIVES THAT ARE PLEASING TO HIM THEREBY BRINGING GLORY TO HIM!

Let me state it another way. **GOD** has made available to us **BELIEVERS EVERYTHING** that we need in order to **KNOW HIS WORD, LIVE OUT HIS WORD and SHARE HIS WORD!** (i.e. **EVERYTHING** we need for **LIFE and GODLINESS** is ours!)

The problem is that many **BELIEVERS** do not **UNDERSTAND** this **TRUTH** and therefore, they do not **APPROPRIATE** and/or **ACTIVATE** what has been **GIVEN** to them by the **LORD** for **LIFE and GODLINESS!**

(e.g. Let me illustrate this for you if I can...I remember a time or two when I thought I was lacking something that I really needed and later I found that what I had needed was actually already in my possession? My problem wasn't that I didn't have it, the problem was I wasn't aware that I already had it. Knowing that I possessed what I needed at the time that I needed it would have been really nice! And that is the case with this!)

So, let me first embed this encouragement in the hearts of my fellow **BELIEVERS** here today: If you are a **BORN AGAIN BELIEVER...i.e. A CHILD OF GOD**—meaning that you have turned from your **SIN OF UNBELIEF** and have **BELIEVED THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THEREBY TRUSTING HIM ALONE** as your **LORD AND SAVIOUR** to both **FORGIVE YOUR SINS** and **SAVE YOUR SOUL**— If you have done that, then you now **HAVE AVAILABLE** to you **EVERYTHING** you need in order to live a **GODLY LIFE** that **GLORIFIES GOD!**

So, what are some of the “**ALL THINGS**” that we have been **GIVEN THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS?**
Not to be OBSESSED WITH THE OBVIOUS, but...

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I. GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS LIFE, ETERNAL LIFE, THROUGH THE GRACE THAT IS IN JESUS CHRIST! (Vs 3)
Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 3:16—“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

When we were **LOST**, we had **NO REAL LIFE** because we were **DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES AND SINS (Ephesians 2:1)!** Yes, we had **PHYSICAL LIFE**, I'm not denying that! But, spiritually, we were **WITHOUT GOD**, meaning we had a sentence of **CONDEMNATION** on us (**John 3:18**) and so therefore, being **WITHOUT GOD** we were **WITHOUT HOPE!** (**Ephesians 2:12**)

That is, until **GOD'S PROVISION** for us **THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST** became our **NEW REALITY** by the **GOSPEL!**

Through the **GOSPEL** we received **LIFE...GOD'S LIFE, ETERNAL LIFE...**and by **DENYING UNGODLINESS and WORLDLY LUSTS**, we can live **GODLY!**

Titus 2:11–12—“11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

THIS LIFE THAT CAME OUR WAY BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH OPENED UP TO US THE OTHER THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS! That brings us to...

II. GOD HAS MADE US PARTAKERS OF HIS DIVINE NATURE GIVING US STRENGTHENING THROUGH CHRIST! (Vs 4)

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That is how **PAUL** was able to say in *Philippians 4:13*—“*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!*”

The **STRENGTH** to do **ALL THINGS** we are called to do by the **LORD** comes through **CHRIST** by way of our **SALVATION!**

So, how is it that **CHRIST STRENGTHENS US?—HE DOES SO BY HIS HOLY GHOST (SPIRIT) THAT DWELLS IN US!** (See *Ephesians 3:16-21*)

Remember how **CHRIST PROMISED HIS DISCIPLES** just prior to **HIS DEATH** that **HE** would not leave them **COMFORTLESS!**

HE PROMISED THEM HE would pray **HIS FATHER** to send the **COMFORTER, THE HOLY GHOST (SPIRIT)**, to **INDWELL** them, **ABIDE** with them, **TEACH** them and **GUIDE** them into **ALL TRUTH!** (*John 14:16-17, 25; 15:26; 16:17*)

And then after **HIS RESURRECTION HE** told them that when the **HOLY SPIRIT** came to **INDWELL** them, that **HE WOULD EMPOWER** them! *Acts 1:8*—“*But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...*”

Notice some **GIFTS** given along with the **HOLY SPIRIT:**

A. GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND HIS WORD! (See *1 Corinthians 2:9-14*)

Prior to being saved we could not understand **GOD’S WORD** because we were **SPIRITUALLY DEAD!**

We **NEED** to **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND GOD’S WORD** in order to live a **LIFE PLEASING TO THE LORD IN GODLINESS!**—**GOD’S INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT** helps us with that! (*Galatians 5:16; 22-25*)

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B. GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT ALSO EMPOWERS US FOR OUR SERVICE TO GOD! (*Acts 1:8*)

C. GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN GIFTS TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH TO HELP US TO GROW TO KNOW AND BETTER UNDERSTAND HIS WORD! (See *Ephesians 4:11-16*)

III. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE ENTIRETY OF HIS WORD!
We **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** that the **LORD REVEALS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD HOW WE ARE TO LIVE AS HIS CHILDREN!**

GOD didn’t leave us to ourselves to try to figure it out...**HE has** revealed it to us through **HIS WORD!** e.g. The **APOSTLE PAUL** wrote in *1 Thessalonians 4:3*—“*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...*” So, that’s part of **GOD’S WILL** for us as **BELIEVERS**, but how is that accomplished?

JESUS prayed to the **HEAVENLY FATHER** in *John 17:17* for **HIS DISCIPLES** and for all those who would come to **BELIEVE** on **HIM** later (That’s us!). Hear the **WORDS** of his **PRAYER...** *JOHN 17:17*—“*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

The **APOSTLE PAUL** also wrote in *Ephesians 5:25-26* that “*Christ... loved the Church and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*”

What **CHRIST** prayed and what **PAUL** wrote about **CHRIST** and **HIS CHURCH** goes right along with what the writer of the longest chapter in the **BIBLE**, *PSALM 119*, wrote regarding the **BIBLE**. In those 176 verses, **GOD’S WORD** is referred to specifically in almost every verse! It is referred to as the *law, the testimonies, the ways, the precepts, the statutes, the judgments, the fear, the commandments, the word, and the words of the LORD!*

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The whole chapter tells the great effect that **GOD'S WORD** can have on one's life! Verses such as...

Psalm 119:9—"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Psalm 119:11—"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, That I might not sin against thee."

Psalm 119:105—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light unto my path."

Also, **PAUL** wrote to **TIMOTHY** in *2 Timothy 3:16-17* that "16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

So, obviously, the **WORD OF GOD** is part of what has been given to us as **BELIEVERS** that pertains unto **LIFE** and **GODLINESS**.

But **POSSESSION** in your **HAND** will never give you what you need for **LIFE** and **GODLINESS**!

It takes **POSSESSION** in your **HEART** to give you what you need and that takes putting forth some **EFFORT**! *Proverbs 2:1-11*

It takes **ABIDING** in the **WORD** by **READING** and **STUDYING** and **MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD**! *Psalm 1:1-3*

It takes **OBEDIENCE** to the **WORD**, not just **HEARING** it and **UNDERSTANDING** it! *James 1:22-25*

But in order for **GOD'S WORD** to do its work, understand that you have to **APPROPRIATE IT** and **ACTIVATE IT** in your life!
We're not going to get it by osmosis!

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Conclusion

So let me summarize as we bring this to a close..

GOD'S DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN TO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM THAT HATH CALLED US TO GLORY AND VIRTUE:

1. **GOD HAS GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!** *John 10:10*—"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Apart from the **GIFT** of **ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST** received by **GRACE THROUGH FAITH** in the **GOSPEL OF CHRIST**, you have zero chance of making it to heaven!

2. **GOD HAS MADE US PARTAKERS OF HIS DIVINE NATURE GIVING US STRENGTHENING THROUGH CHRIST!**
HE does that through **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** that **INDWELLS** each **BELIEVER**!

Also, GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND HIS WORD!

Also, GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN GIFTS TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH TO HELP US TO GROW TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND HIS WORD BETTER!

3. **GOD HAS GIVEN US THE ENTIRETY OF THE WORD OF GOD!** If the **WORD OF GOD** is not an integral part of your life, you have no chance of living a **GODLY** life that is **PLEASING** to the **LORD**!

Psalm 1:1-3