

Passage: 2 Peter 1:1-11

Make your calling and election sure. This we do by:

1. Growing relationship with God (V-14)
2. Supplement your faith with 7 key traits (v5-11)

We will cover Point 2 next week.

Growing relationship with God (V-14)

This means we grow in our knowledge-experience of God. No knowledge no growth. Relationship takes time to grow. Time involves intentionality.

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

This will then result in a life overflowing with the grace and peace of God. Peace is wholesome well-being. Therefore we must grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. To do so is to grow in our faith in God.

2 Peter 1:1

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

The word, 'precious' is spoken twice. We all start with a measure of faith. Our lives are bundled with the life of Christ. Our mission statement is to share Christ as we mature in Him. Hence we major on 5 activities:

- a) Anointed worship
- b) Anointed word
- c) Anointed altar
- d) Anointed body-life
- e) Anointed works of faith

How do we grow in our relationship with God?

I. Know God the Father

1. To know means to participate and to experience.

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Exodus 34:6-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

What do we need to know about God? None of us can obey the greatest commandment to love God by ourselves. The source of love is from God. He will deposit His love in us to love others.

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1. Know that the Father-God is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

We live in a fallen world. Sickness and calamity are not good gifts.

2. Consequently, we must know the Source of our trials, pains and sufferings.

Jeremiah 9:24

But let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord.

Fallenness of man results in conflicts at individual, national and ethnic levels. Fallenness results in earth being fractured and environment being corrupted. Fallenness results in sicknesses and diseases. All these things come from fallenness and has nothing to do with God. We live in a time of birthpangs where these increase in intensity.

Luke 11:11-13

¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for ^[a] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The passage above substantiates that God is good. We need to know God lest we misunderstand and misrepresent Him. Misrepresenting God is when we call evil good, e.g. God gives me cancer to teach me something.

II. Know the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Know the Word of God

a. To build faith

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Romans 10:17

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

b. To weigh our attitudes and motivations

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

The Word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents. There is a world of difference between carnal fleshly response and Christ-like Spirit-led response. The latter is governed and directed by Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit. We leave our vengeance to God. We love our enemies. Love confuses the demonic realm. The weapons we fight with are different; weapons of love; Blood of the Lamb, name of Jesus. We nullify the works of the devil.

When someone comes with fear and anxiety, we pray and let the peace of God cover them. It's offensive and aggressive. When we come to the presence of God, we come boldly and confidently, not of ourselves but by the Blood of the Lamb.

2. Know that in Christ, we have right standing with God

2Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Righteousness of God is having right standing with God.

3. Know that the Lord Jesus is full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Grace is not half lie and half truth. Don't push truth to the extreme and make it false. Below are some extreme beliefs.

- a) Universalism
- b) Hyper Grace
- c) Hyper Prosperity
- d) Hyper Calvinism

4. We must grow in Christlikeness to be un-offendable

Luke 17:1

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come!

We have to talk about this core value again and again.

Matthew 24:10-12

¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹² And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

We see 3 outcomes in the passage above – betrayal, hatred and hearts turning cold. When offence ferments in the heart, it causes serious consequences. When offended, we must go to the person and talk to him. Otherwise, we would whisper and malign him, speaking negatively to far too many people. An offended soul is a walk into darkness. We must process ridicule in a Christlike manner. Where offence is not dealt with, it will soon manifest as hatred. Jesus linked offences with wrong doctrines and apostasy. Your elders and pastors and cell leaders are not perfect people. They are not consistently consistent. Our ultimate security must be in God, not man. Hold tightly to God and hold loosely to man.

To be unoffendable, we must process the incident in a Christlike manner i.e. according to the Word and Revelation of the Holy Spirit.

5. Know that the Lord Jesus is the Great I AM

John 6:35 – I am the Bread of life.

John 8:12 – I am the Light of the world

John 10:7 – I am the Door of the sheep

John 10:11 – I am the Good Shepherd

John 11:25 – I am the Resurrection and the Life

John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

John 15:1 – I am the True Vine

III. Know the Holy Spirit – His Divine Power

2 Peter 1:3a

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life

Matthew 22:29

Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

1. The Holy Spirit is in perfect, complete unity with the Word of God.

There is no iota of difference between the Spirit and the Word. The power of God is the Holy Spirit. We must go to the Word together with the Holy Spirit.

- a. He reveals the Word of God as the Spirit of Truth

John 16:13

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Angels and demons have no revelation. Revelation comes when the Spirit downloads to our spirit. Don't be impressed with people who could quote scriptures.

- b. He reveals the Father-God as the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

Ephesians 1:17-18

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people...

He reveals the Father's love. This may occur during worship. This happens when we connect to the Holy Spirit.

2. Know the Holy Spirit as our Alongsider-Comforter

1 Corinthians 6:19

¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

Don't you know that the Holy Spirit dwells in you? Hence connect with Him.

John 14:16-18

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be ^[a] in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

3. Know the Holy Spirit as our Power

How?

2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Romans 8:1-2

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Before we knew God, we were prone to fear and bondage but now that we know God, that should be a thing of the past. We are princes and princesses yet why are we living impoverished lives as if we do not know God?

Don't flirt with pornography. Only the Spirit can give us victory. We need to know that we cannot help ourselves. Depend on Him.

- c. To empower us to minister to others

1 Peter 1:4-11

¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Never depend on our strength when we serve. Faith without works is dead. If we have faith with no works, faith is dead. We need faith to trust for promises, protection and faith to minister. We need to be bold and pray to minister. If not, faith is not profitable to anyone, including ourselves. The Holy Spirit will perfect us to the degree we step up our faith. On the other hand, if we work without faith, it is spiritual suicide. Work is a religious spirit, cumbered with legalism and judgment.

Let's exercise faith.

Know His precious Promises

2 Peter 1:4

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Examples of Promises:

1. Removing obstacles in our lives. Proverbs 3:5-6
2. Protection. 1 John 5:18; Ephesians 4:27
3. Provision. Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 4:16, 2 Corinthians 9:10

Sow the tithe and the rest of provision is protected and sanctified. Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek first His kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be added to us.

4. Peace. Luke 10:5-6, John 20:21-22

We can release peace to the home. What's the peace? It is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. If there is constant bickering at home, speak peace. At work, speak the peace of God.

5. Healing and Health. Psalm 107:20, Proverbs 3:8, Proverbs 4:22

This body is corrupt, prone and vulnerable to sicknesses and diseases. We need to stand on the promises of God.

6. Salvation of Household. Acts 16:31

Conclusion

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

In life, guarantee the harsh winds will blow on us. How are we building our lives? Are we building on a rock or on sand? How are we building and holding our relationship with God?

Our relationship with God is what will keep us from falling.

End.

Questions for discussion

1. How do you make your calling and election sure? What are some theological anchors that you can hold on to?

2. What are some things we could do to grow our relationship with God?

3. How has knowing God deepened your faith and changed you? What are some experiences of God that you can share and encourage others?

4. Read 2 Peter 1:4. What does it mean to participate in His divine nature?

5. The storms will reveal the kind of foundation we are building - ponder the foundation you are working on and consider if you need to do something about it if it is amiss. (Personal reflection)