

Are You A Partaker of the Divine Nature?

I. BECOMING A PARTAKER OF THE DIVINE NATURE BEGINS WITH FAITH.

- A. Peter wrote this letter to *“those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 1:1)
1. Peter, as well as the rest of the apostles, had obtained this *“precious faith.”*
 2. The Christians who received this letter had obtained this *“precious faith.”*
- B. In 2 Peter 1:5, Peter begins a set of instructions regarding growth. He begins this by saying, *“... giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, . . .”*
- C. While we will study the subject of faith in a later study, let us quickly review a couple of verses regarding faith:
1. **Without faith, it is impossible to please God.** (Hebrews 11:6)
 2. **A lack of faith will cause one to die in his sins.** (John 8:24)
 3. **Faith in God and Christ comes by hearing the precious word of God.** (Romans 10:17)
- D. The beginning point on the journey towards partaking of the divine nature is **faith**.

II. FAITH MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OF JESUS.

- A. **Grace and peace can only be found in the** *“knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”* (2 Peter 1:2)
- B. **Knowledge of God can only come through a study of His word.**
1. We grow when we study the milk of the word. (1 Peter 2:2)
 2. We become more mature as Christians when we study God's word. (cf. Hebrews 5:12-14)
 3. We are able to grow in the *“knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”* when we study God's word. (cf. 2 Peter 3:18)
- C. When we study God's word, we will have knowledge of the evidence upon which

our faith must be established. (cf. Romans 10:17)

III. ESTABLISHED FAITH DIRECTS CHANGE WITHIN A PERSON'S LIFE.

- A. God, in His graciousness, has *“given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”* (2 Peter 1:3)
- B. Living a faithful life and living a godly life, is crucial to one who hopes to be a partaker *“of the divine nature.”*
 1. Jesus told the saints in Smyrna to be *“faithful until death”* and they would receive a *“crown of life.”* (Revelation 2:10)
 2. Paul told Timothy that *“godliness is profitable for all things.”* (1 Timothy 4:8)
- C. As Peter said, God has *“given to us all things that pertain”* to our living our lives in a faithful and godly manner. However, Peter clarified that we are given all things *“through the knowledge of Him”* or of Jesus. The only way a person can come to the knowledge of Jesus is, of course, through Bible study.
- D. The apostle Paul made a similar statement to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 1. In this passage, Paul said that all scriptures are:
 - a. **Profitable for doctrine.**— (To teach the will of God, and to point out Jesus Christ till he should come.)
 - b. **Profitable for reproof.**— (To convince men of the truth)
 - c. **Profitable for correction.**— (For restoring things to their proper uses and places, correcting false notions and mistaken views.)
 - d. **Profitable for obtaining instructions in righteousness.**— (For communicating all initiatory religious knowledge; for schooling mankind.)
 2. When one's faith is established upon the *“scripture,”* (the word of God,) then his life will change. He will know what it is he is to believe and how

he is to live.

3. Paul goes on to say that *“all scripture”* is given so that the man of God, the Christian, may be complete, *“thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* (2 Timothy 3:17)—(Not only complete in himself as to his integrity, religious knowledge, faith in Jesus, and love to God and man, but that he should have all those qualifications which are necessary to complete the character, and insure the success of a Christian.)

IV. GODLY CHANGES LEADS TO GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES.

- A. Let us spend some time on the subject of God's promises.
- B. *“Exceeding great and precious promises”*. A promise is an assurance on the part of another of some good for which we are dependent on him. It implies,
 1. that the thing is in his power;
 2. that he may bestow it or not, as he pleases;
 3. that we cannot infer from any process of reasoning that it is his purpose to bestow it on us;
 4. that it is a favor which we can obtain only from him, and not by any independent effort of our own. The promises here referred to are those which pertain to salvation. Peter had in his eye probably all that had been revealed which contemplated the salvation of the people of God. They are called *“exceeding great and precious,”* because of their value in supporting and comforting the soul, and of the honor and felicity which they unfold to us. The promises referred to are doubtless those which are made in connection with the plan of salvation revealed in the gospel, for there are no other promises made to man. They refer to the pardon of sin; strength, comfort, and support in trial; a glorious resurrection; and a happy immortality.
- C. There are two classes of promises:

1. Unconditional promises.

- a. Seed time and harvest. (Genesis 8:20-22)
- b. No more world-destruction by flood. (Genesis 9:11)
- c. The promise of a Redeemer. (Genesis 3:15; Acts 13:23)
- d. A future world-destruction. (2 Peter 3:6-10)
- e. Second coming of Christ. (Acts 1:9-11)
- f. The general resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:21, 22; John 5:28, 29)

2. Conditional Promises.

- a. Remission of sins. (Jeremiah 31:34; Cf. Acts 10:43; 2:38)
 - 1) Preciousness shown by its cost. (Hebrews 9:22)
- b. Answer to prayer. (Matthew 7:11; Cf. James 1:6, 7; 1 John 3:22; 5:14)
- c. All things work for our good. (Romans 8:28)
- d. All spiritual blessing. (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:20)
- e. The glorious resurrection. (Romans 8:11; Philippians 3:8-11; Luke 20:35-36)
- f. The everlasting kingdom. (James 2:5; Matthew 25:34)
- g. Eternal Life. (1 John 2:25; 1 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 10:35-36; James 1:12)

D. Do God's Promises ever fail?**1. Unconditional promises never fail.** (Numbers 23:19)**2. Conditional promises fail if conditions are not met.**

- a. Blessing or cursing depends on man's acts. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15)
- b. Will repent of promised good. (Jeremiah 18:9-10)
- c. "You shall know my breach of promise." (Numbers 14:34)
- d. This applies to conditional promises previously mentioned.

3. Conditional promises never fail if conditions met.

- a. One word of all He promised did not fail. (1 Kings 8:56)
- b. He is faithful that promised. (Hebrews 10:23)
- c. Not slack concerning His promises. (2 Peter 3:9)

4. Delayed fulfillment no proof of failure.

- a. Some set hearts to do evil because sentence not speedily executed. (Ecclesiastes 8:11)
- b. “Where the promise of His coming?” (2 Peter 3:3-4)
- c. A thousand years as one day. (2 Peter 3:8)
- d. Promised destruction by flood delayed a century.
- e. Promise to Abraham 2000 years before fulfilled. (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:16)

E. While we cannot fully fathom the promises of God (1 John 3:2), we should allow the value of God's promises to move us to obedience, to make those godly changes within our lives.

V. THROUGH THESE PRECIOUS PROMISES, ONE BECOMES PARTAKERS OF THE “DIVINE NATURE.”

A. *“by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* (2 Peter 1:4)

B. **How can Christians become partakers of God's “divine nature”?**

1. **Become children of God.** (John 1:12; Romans 8:14)
2. **Be born again through the Word of God.** (John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23)
3. **Put on the new man** *“created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* (Ephesians 4:24)
4. **Allow that new man to be** *“renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”* (Colossians 3:10)

5. **Escape the corruption that is in the world.** Peter wrote, *“by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* (2 Peter 1:4)
- C. Let's take a few moments and give consideration to the “divine nature” of which Christians are to partake. Consider a few examples of what would be considered qualities of the “divine nature” of God.
1. God is sinless.
 2. God is righteous.
 3. God cannot lie.
 4. God is love.
 5. God is compassionate.
 6. God is forgiving.
 7. God is gracious.
 8. God is merciful.
 9. God is holy.
- D. We can sum up the attributes of the *“divine nature”* with the statement that God is holy. When we partake of his *“divine nature,”* we are likewise to be holy.
1. *“... Be holy, for I am holy.”* (1 Peter 1:15-16)
 2. *“... that we may be partakers of His holiness.”* (Hebrews 12:10)
 3. *“That we might be partakers of his holiness.”* Become so holy that it may be said that we are partakers of the very holiness of God. Comp. **2 Peter 1:4**. This is the elevated object at which God aims by our trials. It is not that he delights to produce pain; not that he envies us, and would rob us of our little comforts; not that he needs what We prize to increase his own enjoyment, and therefore rudely takes it away; and not that he acts from caprice--now conferring a blessing, and then withdrawing it without any

reason: it is, that he may make us more pure and holy, and thus promote our own best interest. To be holy as God is holy; to be so holy that it may be said that we “*are partakers of his holiness,*” is a richer blessing than health, and property, and friends, without it; and when by the exchange of the one we acquire the other, we have secured infinitely more than we have lost. To obtain the greater good, we should be willing to part with the less; to secure the everlasting friendship and favor of God, we should be willing, if necessary, to surrender the last farthing of our property; the last friend that is left us; the last feeble and fluttering pulsation of life in our veins.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Read again 2 Peter 1:1-4.
- B. Once a person escapes “*the corruption that is in the world,*” then he can become partakers of the divine nature of God.
 - 1. At that point, we can be holy.
 - 2. At that point, we can set apart our lives from that of the world.
 - 3. At that point, we can be holy as God is holy.
- C. In order for one to “*escape the corruption that is in the world,*” he must begin with faith established in the word of God, a faith that provokes change within his life. Once a person begins making the necessary changes, then he will be subject to receiving the promises of God and becoming a partaker of the divine nature.