

Second Peter Lesson #2

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 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

Do we hear what Peter is saying to us?

 God has given us everything we need to live a godly life that pleases Him and prospers us.

 By giving us His word and His power through His Son we are fully equipped for a successful Christian life.

Partakers or participators in the divine nature?

 John wrote about the same idea in 1st John 1:3 "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us." NIV

In each case the same root word is used.

• So whether it's Peter speaking of partaking or John speaking of fellowship the same idea is set forth.

 The only way to live for Christ is for Him to live our lives for us – we are at our best when He is participating in our lives.

 Jesus fellowships with us by participating in our lives and we partake of Him when we allow Him to work in us.

• 2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior <u>lesus Christ, NIV</u>

"For this very reason, make every effort".

 The reason? Because we have been invited into God's family and He has equipped us to live as His sons and daughters.

 Remember, He has already given us everything we need to succeed as a Christian, no exceptions.

 Peter also wrote these words; "make every effort".

 What does this suggest to us about living the Christian life?

 Having the equipment and ability to execute is not the same as execution.

 I can go purchase the best golf clubs money can buy, but I will not be any good at golf without training and practice.

 I may have a football helmet in my garage, but that does not make me a player.

Owning a scalpel does not make me a surgeon.

Becoming a Christian requires no work on my part, but being a good one happens only by work.

 Phil 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. NIV

 Same principle – God will do the work, but not without our effort and cooperation. This is the great struggle of the Christian life.

Questions / Comments