

The Divine Exchange Part 5 Lavishly Supply Your Faith 2 Peter 1:2-8

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 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.

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Today we come to the 5th and final study in our series the Divine Exchange.

A)Where we have been discussing how Jesus on the cross - took all of our sin upon him -

B)our punishment - our shame

C)Those who have believed in him - have received - His righteousness -

1)a new standing with God, a new Status in God -
2)The Promise of a glorious future

D)Last week we saw how Jesus took upon himself the penalty for our sin -

1)so he could give to those who believe in Him - the Power over sin

Today we are going to bring this all together - today is the bow that ties it all together.

A)In the text before us - Peter hits on a very important truth -

B)In Christ We have been abundantly Supplied!!!
V.3 **God has given us all things that pertains to life and godliness!**

C)Those are to things we are most interested in - Life how to live how to FLOURISH as a follower of Jesus

D)AND GODLINESS - How to become more like Jesus!

So We see that Peter makes this amazing statement-

A)That God has given to us ALL THINGS that pertains to life and godliness

B)But then he admonishes us to be diligent to add to our faith. So how does that work?

C)How can you add anything to the everything that God has already given to us?

1)We will answer that question today.

D)But let's begin by seeing how Peter describes how we have been abundantly supplied

E)Peter describes three ways that we have been abundantly supplied by God in Christ

- Divine Power
- Divine Promises
- Divine Nature

Divine Power

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

A)Have you ever thought what divine power can do?

B)Let's see, divine power can create the universe. Divine power can sustain all the natural forces of our natural world.

C)Divine power can heal the sick.

1)Divine power can raise the dead.

Paul in Ephesians 1:19 described it as the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward

us that was demonstrated by raising Christ from the dead!

A)Here is how Paul applies this to us Romans 8:11

¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

B)Divine power comes through the work of God's Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

D)When Zerubbabel the Governor of Judea was faced with an insurmountable situation –

1)the Lord said to him - Not by might nor by power – but by my Spirit says the Lord Zech. 4:6

That is God's word to us to – Husband, wife, witness, servant –

A)We are not trusting in our strength, our ability, our ingenuity to be what/ who he has called us to be

B)It comes through the Power of His Spirit

C)It is that Divine power that gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness -

D)It is that Divine power that enables us to be who God has called us to be in Christ

1)It is that Divine power - that enables us to do what God has called us to do as his ambassadors

E)and servants in this world

That means - I CAN'T - should not be a part of the vocabulary of a follower of Jesus.

A)On the contrary - Paul declared in Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

B)Note that doesn't mean - you can do anything you want to do - I want to fly - I can do all things....

1)Jump off a cliff - NO!!!!!!!

C)But it does mean you can do anything and everything that God calls us to do as his followers - through Christ..... us.

Notice - that Peter declares - here in V.2 that we tap into that Divine power as we grow in the Knowledge of Jesus

A)The word knowledge here is not speaking of intellectual knowledge or informational knowledge only

B)It is speaking of Experiential knowledge: Meaning the more I walk with Jesus - obey Jesus
1)Step out in faith in the things that Jesus is calling me to do as his follower -

C)the more I experience of this Divine power.

D)In every step of obedience to his word and his direction -

1)with every step in obedience to his Spirit's nudging

E)I experience - more and more of His Divine power

But there is more: Not only has the Lord given us Divine power - but he has also given us Divine Promises

A)Peter describes them as exceedingly great and precious promises

B)There are over 7,000 promises that God makes to his followers in his word.

1)Promises for present strength and Hope

C)Promises for a glorious future / promises of provision / promises of grace - exceedingly great and precious promises

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. – 2 Corinthians 1:20

D)We are now in Christ! - All the promises are ours!

The Promises are like a Check

A)You really can't do anything with a check until you go to the bank and cash it.

B)A check has the person's name on it. He fills in the amount, but it will do you no good until you cash the check.

C)The money in the bank that is the power - to implement the promise.

1)God has the power to back up his promises.

D)Great homework assignment for you this week is to do a study on the promises of God -

1)See how many you can find - how many are you walking in.

E)Woman in the Hospital - T and P - Tried and Proven

1)Promise believers

So we have Divine Promises that are backed up by His Divine Power

A)One more thing - God has given us a Divine Nature -

that through these (Through the Divine power and the Divine promises) you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

B)Note that phrase: you may be - that signals something to us that is an often seen in scripture - spiritual principle

1)That is this: There is a now and not yet aspect to what God is doing in us

C)Here is the Now: ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

D)The Moment you give your life to Jesus -you become a new creation in Christ -

1)Given a new nature - God's spirit within you.

New nature is after Jesus - His mind - His heart But the Problem is the old nature is still there - Battle

A)Paul described it as in Galatians chapter 5 as the war between the flesh and the spirit.

B)The more - we yield to the Spirit in our lives the more we are becoming partakers of that Divine Nature

C)The more we are becoming like Jesus - and less who we used to be before meeting Jesus

D)This is the Process of Sanctification - Process of a life time – that helps us escape the corruption of this present world

So this is all sounding great right? But then Peter adds this caveat -

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add (Lavishly Supply) to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

How do you add anything to everything?"

A)Given everything for life and godliness by God - how do we add

B)The Word Add = to Lavishly Supply

C)So how do we add to our Faith -

1)when God has already given us everything that we need for life and godliness?

First of all understand that you are not adding anything from outside of what has already been given to you

A)Through - God's Divine power, Divine Promises and Divine Nature

B)In others words it is not like you are going to the store and saying - I need to buy some Virtue

1)and Self Control -

C)Or I need to go on some pilgrimage to find these things.

D)It is not that I reach down into the resources of myself to pull myself up to accomplish what I should.

1)No! I reach down into the resources of almighty God has already made available in Christ.

E)It is more of an idea of you developing what God has already put into you as a new Creation in Christ

Think of it this way: When a Baby Comes into this world it has been given everything physically needed to function as a human being

A)Brain Heart – eyes, ears, arms, legs, hands, feet - muscles and joints

B) A healthy baby has everything needed to be a functioning Human

1) it just needs to learn to use what been given

C) Grow and develop the brain muscles – eyes – arms legs –

As that child eats and exercises the muscles develops - what has been given to it to use - **starts to fulfill its purpose.**

A) As it learns the brain begins to grow and expand -

B) The Same is true in the Christian life – Born again – You have everything you need – to be vibrant and fruitful

1) to have a victorious walk with Jesus

The key is to learn to use and develop what we have been given - what has been supplied.

A) That is more of what Peter is getting here - when he says Peter says -

B) Be diligent = put forth maximum effort and energy

1) You be diligent to Develop in Christ.

C) You need to put forth maximum effort to becoming who God has made you to be in Jesus

D) That means that Sanctification takes team work - God is doing his part but we need to do our part.

1) You don't just sit back and watch it happen you are involved in the process.

E) Paul the apostle describes this teamwork in Philippians 2:12

"Therefore, brethren, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

A) Ever read that verse? Ever puzzled by it?

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,"

B) Note the word salvation here is Sanctification - Work it out - take it to the Gym - exercise your faith

C) but then that statement is followed by this: **"for it is God's who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"---**

God is working in you - through the Holy Spirit to will -

A) He is affecting your desire to draw near to him - obey him

B) Holy Spirit in you is constantly nudging you toward God - the things of God - affecting your will.

C) Galatians 4:6 **Abba Father** - drawing you toward intimacy

C) Moving on your heart to take steps of Faith -

1) and as you take those steps God meets your obedience with his power

D) He is working in you both to will and to do for his good pleasure.

E) So this is the idea of Adding to your faith - or Lavishly supplying your faith. -

1) Building your spiritual muscles through exercise and obedience

Let me give you another analogy:

A) Let's say you are going to build a home - and your Dad owns a Living Spaces store and a Home Depot

B) He says to you: You can go to both stores and pick whatever furniture and appliances you want to Lavishly supply your home. For Free

C) He has made a promise and he has the power to make that promise happen. His name carries weight

D) Your connection and relationship to him carries weight!

But if your house is going to get furnished and Lavishly supplied you have to go down to the store and pick out what you want -

A) It isn't going to happen by osmosis

B) You have a part to play in the Furnishing process.

The same is true spiritually - you have a part to play in your spiritual growth

A) That happens as you tap into what God has made available to you in Christ.

B) So why this list? Why **virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.**

C) Well as you look at this list you will notice it is very similar to the list of the fruits of the spirit in **Galatians 5 love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control.**

D) All of these traits are what we would call attributes of Christ -

1) character - picture of who he was and how he lived.

So I think what Peter is doing here is giving us the target -

A) He is giving us a clear distinction what we are to be aiming at in our spiritual growth

B) A major part of transformation is having a vision of what God is trying to produce in us.

C) I find this to be so helpful - because there are so many messages in Christian churches today

1) of what we are to be pursuing

D) But not all of it is Biblical

E) So Peter gives us a list and blue print of what growth is supposed to look like -

1) Essentially saying Become more like Jesus

He starts with Virtue- also translated moral excellence

A) When we think of this word we tend to only think of it in relation to morality.

B) Today when we refer to a woman being virtuous or morally chaste.

C) But the Greek word for Virtue is Arete - R/e/te

1) it referred to something having the ability to fulfill its purpose or design

An R/e/te knife was one that was sharp and cut well;

A) An arete horse was one with speed and endurance; an arete singer was one who sang well.

B) It refers to the quality that makes someone or something stand out as excellent.

C) When anything in nature properly fulfills its purpose, that fulfillment was referred to as "virtue" or "moral excellence."

D) Land that produces crops is "excellent" because it is fulfilling its purpose.

1) The tool that works correctly is "excellent" because it is doing what a tool is supposed to do.

The Bible tells us that we have been made in the image of God -

A) We were designed by God to be image bearers of him.

B) Now sin marred that picture - marred our ability to fulfill our purpose

C) But Jesus redeemed us so that we could recapture that purpose

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

D) So when Peter says giving all diligence - absolute effort to add or supply your faith with Virtue

E) He essentially his saying - You put forth the maximum effort through the power of God that is in you

1) To Fulfill your purpose to live like Jesus - represent Jesus

And because moral excellence cannot develop in an intellectual vacuum he follows that by saying -

A) To virtue add Knowledge

B) I need to gain a greater knowledge of Jesus - His heart - His perspective -

1) how He saw things and handled things

C) So regularly studying the gospels is going to be a Key to growing in that knowledge

D) Reading the gospel of John in Devotions right now - and in John chapter 3:31 speaking of Jesus it says **The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms.**

That is what made Jesus so different from the rest of mankind

A) He came from heaven - so he looked at man and his problems

B) From a heavenly perspective instead of purely from an earthly perspective

C) Isn't that one of the greatest problems in the church today -

1) too many Christians look at the problems in our world from an earthly perspective

D) We are looking for earthly answers to what in reality are spiritual problems - light and darkness

As we add to our faith Knowledge -

A) We are seeking to tap into the heart and mind of Jesus as it relates to our the culture around us.

B) Then Peter says and to knowledge Self Control -

1) Self control comes by submitting ourselves to God's plan and purpose

C) You might feel like - oh man self-control is one thing that I really lack

D) But understand - self-control really starts with being yielded to God -

1) His plan and His purpose for my life

Being yielded to the Word of God

A) And knowing that as I take steps to move in the direction that God is asking - directing in his Word

B) God meets me with his power - so that self-control becomes more of a reality in my life -

1) That which is very unnatural to me starts to become natural through that work that God is doing by his spirit

C) Then Peter says to Self-control add perseverance -

We talked about this word two weeks ago - Hupomone in the Greek

A) Hupomone = Perseverance or endurance is the ability to progress and move forward in spite of the adversity.

B) It describes the ability to bear things in such a triumphant way that it transfigures them.

C) Hupomone is not simply the ability to bear things; it is the ability to turn them to greatness and to glory.

D) We noted that the Word is used of Jesus in Hebrews 12:2 -

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

On the cross - Jesus looked weak on the outside - but in the spiritual realm he was conquering

A) Conquering Sin Death and Satan -

B) He was conquering - He was transforming a bad looking situation into a great situation. -

C) We are told to look to Jesus learn from Jesus - how did He endure - persevere?

The Joy set before him

A) He wasn't only focused on the painful situation he was in -

B) But he was also focused on what it was going to produce - The Joy.

C) Fulfilling his father's plan - hearing father.... Well done - Knowing it would mean - You in his family

D) So too we add perseverance the same way: By looking ahead and seeing the big picture -

1) God is working something into us.

To Perseverance add godliness - Godlikeness

A) You are never more like God than when you are giving yourselves to others - our purpose in Christ

B) Seeing how to help the hurting and oppressed around us -

1) seeing how we can build up one another in Christ

C)To godliness Brotherly Kindness – Greater love has no man than this that he would lay down his life for his friends

D)And to brotherly Kindness add love -

1)A willingness to lay down our lives not only for our friends but even our enemies

E)That is what Jesus did!

So that is the target - That Peter is putting forth.

A)That is what God is wanting to working into us

B)As we tap into the resources that God has given us in Christ

C)Notice the 4 fold result that Peter puts forth - as we make this our Focus

The Fourfold result of lavishly supplying your faith in this way V.8-10

8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A)#1 V.8 Fruitful – not barren!

9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

B)#2 You will be Focused – not shortsighted

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

C)#3 You will be Firm footed – not stumbling around – not unsure in your faith

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

D)#4 You will be Fulfilled – Abundant entrance –

Or to put it another way: You will actually experience all things that pertain to life and godliness that God has given to you in Christ.