



Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info



2 PETER

Beware of Religious Imposters

Chapter 1: Spiritual Growth is Needed to Recognize Religious Imposters

CENTRAL QUESTION

How can we grow spiritually while still struggling with sin and spiritual complacency in our daily lives?

INTRODUCTION

In 2 Peter 1, Peter exhorts believers to grow in their faith and knowledge of Christ. He emphasizes God's power in granting everything needed for life and godliness, encourages the pursuit of spiritual virtues, and reminds readers of the certainty of Christ's return. The chapter highlights the importance of Scripture as a reliable prophetic word and warns against neglecting spiritual growth, which can lead to ineffectiveness and forgetfulness of God's grace.

2 PETER CHAPTER 1 (NLT)

A. Growing Begins with Faith (1:1-4)

This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. ² May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.

³ By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

B. Faith Centers on God's Promises (1:5-7)

⁵ In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

C. God's Promises Result in Productive Lives (1:8-11)

⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. ¹⁰ So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. ¹¹ Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

D. The Source of Peter's Words (1:12-21)

¹² Therefore, I will always remind you about these things -- even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. ¹³ And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. ¹⁴ For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, ¹⁵ so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.

¹⁶ For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes ¹⁷ when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place -- until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, ²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. (1:3) Why does Peter emphasize God's power in giving us "everything we need for a godly life"?
2. (1:4) What does it mean to "partake in the divine nature"?
3. (1:8) Why is adding to faith with virtues like knowledge, self-control, and love so crucial?
4. (1:16-18) What is the significance of Peter's reference to the "majestic splendor" (Transfiguration) in this chapter?
5. How can we grow spiritually while still struggling with sin and spiritual complacency in our daily lives?

APPLICATION

- We are to make a _____ to grow spiritually.
- We are to use _____ to guide our spiritual growth.
- We are to depend on _____ to produce spiritual growth.

Sources used in this series

Green, M. (1987). *2 Peter and Jude*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press.

MacArthur, J. (2005). *The MacArthur Bible Commentary*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

New Living Translation. (1997). *Holy Bible*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Stott, J. R. (1995). *The Message of 2 Peter & Jude*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1984). *Be Alert: Beware of the Religious Imposters*. Colorado Springs:
David C. Cook Publishers.