

KNOWING AND GROWING ~ Part 1

Ever wondered how you can 'Bullet Proof' your faith?

Read 2 Peter 1:1-4

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BEGINS WITH FAITH

Peter makes plain the Christian life begins with faith and gives 4 elements of that faith.

Faith of the same kind as ours vs. 1

Peter called it “a faith of the same kind as ours”, “a faith as precious as ours”, meaning that our standing with the Lord is the same as that of the Apostles. They had no special advantage over us simply because they walked with Jesus. It's not necessary to see the Lord with our eyes to love and trust Him, to share His glory.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT THAT YOUR FAITH WAS LESSER TO SOMEONE ELSE'S? HOW HAVE YOU OVERCOME THIS OR DO YOU CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH THIS?

Faith is in a person vs. 1-2

Our faith is in Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour. “God” and “our Saviour” are not two different Persons; they describe one Person, Jesus Christ. Jesus has three “spiritual commodities” that can be secured from nobody else: righteousness, grace, and peace.

When you trust Him as your Saviour, His righteousness becomes your righteousness; you are given right standing before God. Grace is God's favour to the undeserving. The result of this is peace, peace with God and the peace of God. In fact, God's grace and peace are “multiplied” toward us as we walk with Him and trust His promises.

HOW DO YOU EXPERIENCE A SENSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, GRACE AND PEACE? DO YOU STRUGGLE TO 'FIND' ANY OF THESE AND WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT THIS?

This faith involves God's power vs. 3

The Christian life begins with saving faith. But when you know Jesus personally, you experience God's power, and this power produces “life and godliness.” When you are born into the family of God by faith in Christ, you are born complete. Peter knew that *nothing could be added*. Just as a normal baby is born with all the “equipment” he needs for life and only needs to grow, so the Christian has all that is needed and only needs to grow.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S POWER, ESPECIALLY TO OVERCOME SIN?

This faith involves God's promises vs. 4

God has not only given us all that we need for life and godliness, but He has also given us His Word to enable us to develop this life and godliness. When the sinner believes on Jesus, the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to impart the life and nature of God within. A baby shares the nature of its parents, and a person born of God shares the divine nature of God.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE PROMISES FROM GOD'S WORD?