

Diligent Faith

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1. Text: 2 Peter 1:1-21
2. Peter begins his second epistle with an appeal to a diligent faith founded in true knowledge of God and the confidence that brings of our salvation.
3. To help orient this section into the broader context of Peter's two epistles we have recorded for our benefit we begin with a brief overview of these two letters.

Discussion:

I. **BACKGROUND**

A. 2 Peter written as a followup letter to 1 Peter:

	1 Peter	2 Peter
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered Saints (1:1-2) • Indications Gentile Christians are in mind (1:14, 18; 2:10; 4:3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who received like precious faith (1:1) • Same audience as 1st (3:1)
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As sojourners and pilgrims - live properly with a focus on heaven. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder of the things they already know and he had told them before (1:12-15; 3:1-2)

B. **Read 2 Peter 1.**

II. **GOAL: TO BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE (1:1-4)**

- A. Note the repeated significance placed upon true knowledge. (v. 2,3,8)
- B. What has God's divine power granted to believers? What confidence should this give us?
- C. How does Peter say we can become partakers of the divine nature?
- D. Understanding our aim of partaking of God's divine nature, we should be diligent in our faith to attain it (**2 Peter 1:5a, 10a**)
 1. Here - diligent to pursue the qualities listed and make certain of our calling
 2. In **2 Peter 3:14-15** - diligent to be found by the Lord in peace - spotless and blameless
 3. Parallels the idea of being on guard so not drawn away by error (**2 Pt. 3:17**)
 - a) And being sober and alert against the adversary, the devil (**1 Pt. 5:8-10**)
 - b) And preparing the mind for action, keeping sober in spirit (**1 Pt. 1:13**)

————— **Application (1:5-7)** —————

I. **IN YOUR FAITH SUPPLY....**

- A. The foundation of our diligence to partake in the divine nature is our faith.
- B. What kind of faith had Peter's audience received? (**1:1**)

- C. What role does faith play in our salvation? (**1 Peter 1:3-9**; c.f. **Heb. 11:1**)
- D. What things does Paul connect to our faith in **Rom. 5:1-2; 10:12-17**.
- E. Note how the Hebrew writer connects faith with (diligently) seeking (**Heb. 11:5-6**)

II. **IN YOUR FAITH SUPPLY MORAL EXCELLENCE (VIRTUE)**

- A. Recall it was by (or to) God's own glory and excellence (virtue) that He called the believers to Himself - having provided to us by His divine power **all things** pertaining to life and godliness (**2 Pt. 1:3**)
- B. So the goal of our moral excellence is to imitate God's character
 - 1. Christ as the standard or measure (**Eph. 4:13**)
 - 2. Be imitators of God (**Eph. 5:1**) (**1 Cor. 11:1**)
- C. We should focus our attention things which are excellent (virtuous) (**Phil. 4:8**)

III. **IN YOUR MORAL EXCELLENCE {SUPPLY} KNOWLEDGE**

- A. Again we see a progression here - in faith supply virtue, in virtue supply knowledge - continue to grow (c.f. **2 Peter 3:17-18**)
- B. What does Paul say concerning knowledge/understanding in these passages?
 - 1. **Eph. 3:1-7** -
 - 2. **Eph. 5:3-17** -
 - 3. **Col. 1:9-10** -

IV. **IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SELF-CONTROL**

- A. Virtue and knowledge must be demonstrated in the restraint of our minds and actions - i.e. controlling ourselves - self-control
- B. What illustration does Paul use to teach self-control in **1 Cor. 9:24-27**?
- C. Self-control requires us to deny and control the desires of the flesh. Note:
 - 1. **Titus 2:11-12; 1 Thess. 4:3-5; 1 Peter 2:11**
 - 2. **Rom. 8:9-12; Col. 3:5**

V. **IN YOUR SELF-CONTROL, PERSEVERANCE**

- A. Self-control isn't one time so continuing to practice self-control... but also the ability to overcome trials.
- B. Note how trials result in perseverance (**Rom. 5:1-5; Jas. 1:2-4; 5:10-11**)
- C. Confidence - endurance to receive the promise (**Heb. 10:32-39; 12:1-3**)

VI. IN YOUR PERSEVERANCE, GODLINESS

- A. Not being like God (though that is the context here - partaking in His divine nature) and thus the result of Godliness (and all these characteristics) - it is God-centeredness - deep reverence/respect for God which causes us to do what pleases Him
- B. It is profitable for all things - **1 Tim. 4:6-10**
- C. The doctrine, truth, which conforms to godliness - **1 Tim. 6:3-6; Titus 1:1**
- D. Set in opposition to those who are lovers of self rather than lovers of God - **2 Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 2:11-12**

VII. IN YOUR GODLINESS, BROTHERLY KINDNESS

- A. As we pursue godliness - we should grow ever closer to those who have the same goal - thus we have a perfect bond of unity (**Col. 2:2; 3:14**)
- B. Love of brethren is foundational to our salvation - **1 Peter 1:22; 3:8-9**
- C. The "New" Commandment of Jesus (**Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Jn. 4:20-21**)

VIII. IN YOUR BROTHERLY KINDNESS, LOVE

- A. Extends beyond brotherly kindness - learn to imitate the kind of love God shows
- B. Great faith and works meaningless without love (**1 Cor. 13:1-7**)
- C. God is love and if we want to partake of His divine nature, must learn to love like He does (**1 John 4:7-14**)
- D. What does love require of us? (**Phil. 2:1-5**)
- E. Who does Jesus command us to love? (**Matt. 5:43-45**)

Conclusion:

1. It is our goal to partake in the Divine Nature and grow (**2 Pt. 1:3-4**) with the goal of being with God in eternity.
2. It requires diligence - sustained effort (**v. 5a**)
3. IF these qualities are ours and are increasing continually - we are neither useless or unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (**v. 8**)
4. The one who isn't diligent to supply these virtues in their faith - it is evident their focus is not on Heaven - shortsighted even to blindness (**v. 9**)
5. The one who is diligent will secure their place in Heaven as they practice these things God has given - God's promise is that we will NEVER STUMBLE (**vs. 10-11**)
6. Even those who know these things NEED TO BE REMINDED (**v. 12-15**)
7. Peter further solidifies these ideas and the confidence we can have by considering the way these things were delivered to them - as eyewitness testimony and the even more sure prophetic word - rather than cunningly devised fables (**v. 16-21**)