

Everything We Need

2 Peter 1:3-4

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

Understand What God's Ultimate Goal is For Us:

The ground of our salvation is Jesus' obedient life and his substitutionary death. The goal of our salvation is that we would become increasingly like Christ.

God puts us in situations in order to transform us into the likeness of Christ.

This can seem overwhelming at times:

"As far as I could see, God was asking way too much of me, a kid new to the Christian faith. Well, that martyr complex, I have since come to realize, was fostered by—now listen closely to this—by concentrating too much on what God was asking of me and not enough on what God had given me." Joni Eareckson Tada

Key Truth: In Becoming Like Jesus... God Supplies What God Requires.

I. God's Ultimate Purpose: That We Would Share in His Glory. 2 Peter 1:3-4

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him **who called us to his own glory and excellence**, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**..." God's highest goal is not your momentary comfort but your Christ-like conformity.

"It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28 (ESV)

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification..." 1 Thessalonians 4:3

God has determined that we would share in the beauty of Christ which made him willing to step down into humble human form and suffer humiliation at the cross to exalt us ultimately with him as sons and daughters of God.

II. God's Unlimited Provision: Everything We Need for Life and Godliness. 2 Peter 1:3

We need to understand this: Knowing leads to growing. Your growth in Christ-like conformity is a direct result of your growth in knowing Jesus truly.

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence..." 2 Peter 1:3

"Believers are transformed into the image of the Lord by beholding it, not by reflecting it."
Charles Hodge

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

- The power to change comes from God: "His divine power has granted to us all things."
- The power of God works by revealing Christ's glory to us: "through the knowledge of Him who calls us to his own glory and excellence."

"Getting the glory of Christ before your eyes and keeping it there—is the greatest work of the Spirit that I can imagine. ... Make every common task shine with the radiance of Christ. Then every event becomes a shiny glory moment to be cherished—whether you drink tea or try to get the verb forms of the new language." C. John Miller

"The more we come to be affected by the beauty of the Lord, the more we will be delighted to follow him." Jonathan King

Consider: In our Christian life, sometimes the best place to see the beauties and the glories of Christ is not in a high moment but in some of the lowest places of our lives!

III. God's Powerful Promises: There is Life-changing Power in the Promises of God. 2 Peter 1:4

God's promises are designed to bring about in us the very changes that He desires for us.

a. Some of God's promises are unilateral and therefore effectual.

"I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a

new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." Ezekiel 36:24-27

b. Many of God's promises are relational and thereby transformational.

"by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." 2 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:31-32 (ESV)

Consider:

"This takes some of us a lifetime to learn. O you young people, get this now. That's why I prayed at the beginning, 'O God, build habits into our lives.' Habits of trusting promises, habits of hourly going to the Lord and saying, 'I need you. I need you. I need you. And then don't just go away saying, 'Yeah, I need him,' and feeling as depressed as when you came. But rather, take a promise, believe it, and don't let it go until it has an effect on you. And then turn your resolve, by that power, into a deed.'" John Piper

Do you have a discipline of clinging to the promises of God or remembering them when you are called to follow him through hard places and times?

Remember: The goal of God for each of us is that we would not only believe in Jesus but that we might become like Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3–4 — Group Study Questions

1. **God's ultimate goal for us is to become more like Jesus.** When you think about the ways God has been growing you over the years, what is one change in your character, attitudes, or desires that you are thankful for?
2. Joni Eareckson Tada reminds us not to focus only on what God asks of us, but also on what He has given us. Why is it so encouraging to remember God's provision when the Christian life feels overwhelming?
3. **God supplies what He requires.** How does knowing that God has given us everything we need for life and godliness change the way we approach areas where we still need to grow?
4. Second Corinthians 3:18 teaches that we are transformed as we behold the glory of the Lord. What are some practical ways you can keep the beauty, character, and work of Jesus before you in the midst of everyday life?
5. Sometimes we see the beauty of Christ most clearly in the difficult seasons of life. Can you share an experience when God used a challenging circumstance to deepen your faith or help you become more like Jesus?
6. God has given us precious promises to help us grow. Is there a particular promise from Scripture that has encouraged or strengthened you during a difficult season? How did it help you trust God or respond differently?
7. Isaiah 41:10 reminds us that God is with us, strengthens us, and upholds us. How might your response to a current challenge change if you more deeply trusted His presence and promises?
8. **Our growth comes from knowing Jesus, relying on His power, and trusting His promises.** What is one specific way you would like to grow in Christlikeness this week, and what truth about Jesus or promise from God can help you take that step?