

Great and Precious Promises

2 Peter 1:1-4

When we **grow** as **Christians**, we become more and **more like Christ**. We take on **His virtue** and we learn to **put aside** our **sins** and **vices**, so that we think, speak and act more **like Christ**. This is because there is a **real internal change** that God is making in us, through **His Word** and by **His Spirit**. This of course is what we call **Sanctification**, or **image bearing**, it is the **work of God** in making us **like Jesus**.

a faith of the same kind as ours

.... it is written to **Christian believers**, like Peter, who believe that **Jesus** is the **Son of God** who came to save us from our **sins** by living the **perfect life** in our place, and **died** to **pay the penalty** of our **sins**, so that we could be **forgiven** of our **sins** and God's **justice** could be **satisfied**, and this in fact **delivered us** from the **power** of **sin** and **death**. **Jesus**, who is also **God the Son**, proved this by His **powerful resurrection**, giving us sure and certain **hope** that His promise to give us **eternal life** is in fact real, genuine, and true. Indeed, the **tomb** is **empty**, He is **risen** and even now at the **right hand** of **God** have ascended into **Heaven**. All of this so that **God** could then **bless us** and grant us **His favor**, even **adopting us** into **His family** to become His own **children**. It is **amazing Grace** for sure! None of this is ours **because we are good**

people, but in spite of the fact that we are **bad people**, desperate **sinner**s who need to be saved from the **consequences** of our **own sins** before a **Holy God**, who is our **Holy Creator** and the **Righteous Judge** of all people, who will all **stand before Him** in judgment. We cannot be **saved** in any way by our **own works** or **good deeds**, as we have already **merited** His **divine wrath** because of our sins, and therefore need a **substitute** to **die** in our **place** and on our **behalf**. This makes salvation the free and **unmerited gift** from **God** that is the only **acceptable sacrifice** for sins, which **God** Himself **provided** in His Son Jesus, the **Lamb of God** who takes away **our sins**. As Paul so clearly states in Ephesians

Ephesians 2:8-9 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB

Acts 2:36-39 - 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself." NASB

Psalms 119:165 - 165 Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble. NASB

Galatians 5:22-23 - 2 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;** against such things there is no law. NASB

Q. What are some things that hinder us from coming to know God better?

Psalm 36:7-9 - 7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. **8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights. 9 For with You is the fountain of life;** In Your light we see light. NASU

Q. What are some practical ways we can grow in this intimacy with God?

Romans 8:28-30 - 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. NASB

2 Corinthians 3:18 - 18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. NASB

Job 23:12 - 12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. NAS

Psalms 119:103 - 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! NASU

Psalms 119:127 - 127 Therefore I love Your commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold. NASU

Jeremiah 15:16 - 16 Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts. NASU

1 Peter 2:2 - 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. NASU
