

Recap

In order to move from STUCK to UN-STUCK ...

- We need God.

We need his grace or his favour.

- And although forgiveness is certainly part of it.
- His grace/favour is so much more.

→ → → → TIME LINE → → → →

Every day, we are faced with a choice.

- Will we embrace or reject his grace.

Today we are going to talk about something else

- That needs to be mixed into his favour.
- In order to help you get UNSTUCK spiritually
- And that is ...

Get your Audience Right

We are going to read 11 verses from 2 Peter 1

- And we are going to unpack them bit by bit.

Some **CONTEXT**

In the New Testament times (as with us today)

- There were standard ways of writing letters.

For us today it is:

- To whom it may concern or "Hello"
- Regards or Love or Greetings or ...

For them the standard way of writing a letter was

- Name to Name

- Greeting
- Prayer or Encouragement

We have touches on this before.

Name to Name: Werner to James

- Greeting: Hello or "Hey Dude"
- Prayer: I hope you have a wonderful Christmas time.

As with today, if you were fanatical about something

- It would spill over into everything.

So, lets say I were to write a letter to James

- Werner (an apple fanatic): James (a fellow convert)
- Hello
- I hope you are able to get the new Mac Book Pro this year.

So, standard Greeting 1st century era.

- Name:Name
- Greeting
- Prayer or Encouragement

As with any fanatic, Peter is so consumed with Jesus and the gospel.

- (The gospel being that Jesus is the Anointed King sent by God)
- That it permeates even his greeting.

2 Peter 1¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ ...

- Slave and Messenger of Jesus – The Anointed King.
- He couldn't even write a letter without bringing Jesus into it.

TO: [Whom is he writing to?] To those who through the righteousness [faithfulness] of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

So, from Simon Peter a slave and messenger of Jesus the Anointed King.

TO:

- Those who through the faithfulness of Jesus the King.
- Have received a faith as precious as ours.

Again, where is the focus.

- Jesus – The Anointed King

Now comes the greeting

² Grace and peace be yours in abundance THROUGH the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His prayer for them is that ...

- God's grace ^[his favour] and his peace will be in their lives in abundance ...
- That it will be multiplying in their lives.
- And that it will happen through their knowledge of God and of Jesus.

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life ...

His Divine Power – Theios (thee-hos) = Super Natural

- Has given us everything we need in order to live ...
- A God-glorifying, Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowered life.

What is his divine power? It is the power through which ...

- He spoke the world into existence.
- Through which he set the sun, moon, stars & planets were set into place
- And our expanding universe into place.

It is the power that set our universe into motion.

- And allows it to keep on expanding to this very day.

It is the power that delivered the Israelites from Egypt.

- Made the sun stand still for Joshu ...
- And raised Jesus from the dead.

All of that overwhelming, super-natural, eternal power ...

- Is lazar-focused on providing you...
- With EVERYTHING that you need ...
- To live a God-glorifying, Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowered life.

What is required to move from HERE to THERE?

- God's supernatural/ theos power!

Now, who of us feels like we can do with a bit of that power?

- How do we activate it?

Let's go back to the text ...

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life **THROUGH** [here comes the answer as to how to activate it] **through our knowledge of him who called us by** [or to] **his own glory and goodness.**

Peter says that this power gets activated through ...

- And a deeper and more intimate knowledge of him.

Who is the "Him" that he is talking about?

- The one who has called us by his Glory and Goodness.

So, here again we have the glory and goodness of God.

- Glory = Doxa ...
- His splendor, beauty, majesty, greatness.
- Goodness = Aretē – A-re-tee = Excellence
- Calling us to him.

The better [more intimately] we get to know ...

- The glorious Father and his son (Jesus) – The anointed King.
- The more his divine power will be activated in our lives
- Enabling us to live a God-glorifying, Christ-exalting ...
- Spirit-empowered life.

⁴ **Through these** [Referring back to v. 3 – His divine power, his splendor, beauty, majesty, greatness, goodness & excellence] **he**
has given us his very great and precious promises ... [invaluable/ priceless]

SO THAT [here comes the reason] **through them** [The extremely important, great, precious, invaluable & priceless promises – Given to you by his divine power, splendor, beauty, majesty, greatness, goodness and excellence] **...you may participate in the divine nature ...**

So, not only has he given us his divine power.

- But, through his divine power he has also given us ...
- His very great, precious & priceless promises.

So that through these great and precious promises ...

- You may participate in that glory, splendor, beauty ...
- Majesty, greatness, goodness and excellence

... having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Having being freed from and fleeing from ...

- The corruption and decay of our world and its ways.

So, his divine power, his glory and goodness.

- His great, precious, invaluable and priceless promises.
- Have all been given to us in order to free us ...
- From the corruption and decay of the world.
- So that, we may participate in his divine/ supernatural nature.

⁵ For this reason ... (v.3-4)

The reason being, that we can participate in his divine nature

- Through his divine power ...
- Through his great and precious promises that is given to us
- Through his glory and goodness.

For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith ^[faithfulness or allegiance] goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

⁵ For this reason ... (v.3-4)

The reason being, that we can participate in his divine nature

- Through his divine power ...
- Through his great and precious promises that is given to us
- Through his glory and goodness.

⁵ For this reason, make every effort to add/ supplement to your faith ...

Let me quickly explain those to phrases.

This exact expression of "make every effort" ...

- Is found only here in the whole New Testament.
- It is an invitation to do your utmost best, regardless of the cost ...
- Recently read a translation: To strain every nerve.

For this reason, make every effort ...

- Do your utmost best (regardless of the cost) ...
- Even to the point of straining a nerve.

To add or supplement to your faith/ allegiance ...

- Goodness, knowledge, self-control ...

What does it mean to “add” or to “supplement?”

In the Greco-Roman world, they use to have these magnificent plays.

- And in these plays they had great choirs ...
- These great choirs needed significant funding and training
- To make these plays awe-inspiring.

Good hearted wealthy and prominent citizens

- Would take it upon themselves to find, train and fund these choirs ...
- In service of the community.

The name given to these people were epichorēgeō – (epi-g-o-rie-ye-hou)

- Which meant, one who poured out everything for a noble performance

When Peter says, make every effort to add to your allegiance ...

- Goodness, self-control and and and ...
- He uses that word epichorēgeō – (epi-g-o-rie-ye-hou)

He says, make every effort to add ...

- To epichorēgeō – (epi-g-o-rie-ye-hou) ...

Make every effort to pour out everything for a noble performance.

- To an audience of ONE!

BUCKET

⁸ **For** [the reason you should do this/ Pour out your best for a noble performance] **if you possess these qualities in increasing measure ...**

Not just a bit here and there...

- No, if you possess them in increasing measure.
- If they become abundant in your life.

... they [these qualities] **will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If you have these qualities in increasing measure.

- They will make you effective and productive ...
- In your knowledge of Jesus the anointed king.

⁹ **BUT whoever does not have them...** [Whoever is not growing in these areas, whoever does not have them in an increasing measure] **is nearsighted and blind,** [is missing something] **forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.**

Whoever does not have these qualities in an increasing measure in their lives ...

- Has forgotten that God has wiped their slate clean.
- That he has filled and empowered them with his Holy Spirit.
- In order that they can be his sons and daughters.
- Bearing his image into the world.

¹⁰ **Therefore, my brothers and sisters ...**

Because of all that has been said about ...

- His Divine Power, his very great and precious promises.
- His glory and goodness calling us to him.

Because adding to your faith will ...

- Make you effective and productive in your knowledge of him.
- Will, enable you to bear his image into this world

Because of all of that ... **make every effort ...**

In the Greek this is a different phrase than the previous one.

- This means, be zealous, be in a hurry, be eager.

... to confirm your calling and election.

To show people that you know by whom you are called ...

- And to what you are called.

That you know you are called by God through his divine power.

- To his glory, beauty, splendor, his majesty, goodness and excellence.

FOR if you do these things ...

If you make every effort to pour out everything for a noble performance ...

- To an audience of one.
- If you get your audience right.

And you are zealous and eager to show, through who you are ...

- That you are called by God, through his divine power.
- To his glory, beauty, splendor, his majesty, goodness and excellence.

... you will never stumble ...

You will be able to bear God's image into the world.

¹¹ ... and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord ^[our ruler] and
Savior ^[our deliverer. The one who is worthy to be obeyed] Jesus Christ. ^[Jesus, the anointed King.]