

The Power of Knowing Jesus

2 Peter 1:3-4

Introduction



2 Peter 1:1-4

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

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

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

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SECOND PETER

GROWING IN GRACE

What GRACE is

Grace is **God's gift** of salvation and power that comes through knowing Jesus Christ in the gospel. Grace is a one-time thing and an ongoing thing. It is having Jesus Christ and his righteousness as ours, forever.

What GRACE *isn't*

Grace *isn't* “you supply the power to obey and please God as a moral person. Nor is grace “you do whatever you want. Grace is not religion or irreligion, legalism or license, but something entirely different altogether. Grace is the life of Jesus being realized by God’s power at work in us.

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What Grace *is*

Jesus has *given us* everything we need

Jesus has *called us* to his own glory and
goodness.

Grace in 2 Peter

“Believers are saved by faith, and this faith stems from the saving righteousness of God (2 Pet. 1:1). Peter uses the word “righteousness” in accord with the OT, where it denotes God’s saving activity on behalf of his people. Given the situation of the letter, Peter’s emphasis on godly living and his denunciation of evil are unsurprising. Still, Peter does not teach that believers have the wherewithal to produce godliness. It is only by “divine power” that they are enabled to live in a way that pleases God (1:3). God has supernaturally called believers to lives of moral excellence, so that the emphasis lies on the grace of God (1:3).”

– Tom Schreiner, *The King in His Beauty*, p. 611

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What Peter learned

Peter saw the power of God up close and personal. But he had to learn to understand God's grace.

Acts 2:14-41

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 ““In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the
Lord.

21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:

““I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,

27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.

9 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Big Question

Why does this matter?

Why is it important to know Jesus?

The Leper in Mark 1

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

41 Jesus was indignant.[filled with compassion] He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

43 Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: 44 "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." 45 Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.



Christ cleansing a leper by Jean-Marie Melchior Doze, 1864



God's Grace in Power

*The truly powerful one became weak for us,
in order that we might know his power.*

He tasted death that we might have life.

Gospel Application

What is 1 Promise (one thing God has declared that He will do) that you need to cling to this week for hope & transformation?