

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

### Lesson 1

#### II Peter

*return pages 6, & 7*

#### ***I. Achieve your greatest potential***

Did your parents make you do chores when you were young? No doubt the first time they had you wash windows, they gave you the supplies you would need: vinegar and water or some other cleaning solution, a bucket, and rags or newspapers (unless you're of a younger generation, and they just gave you Windex and paper towels). More than likely, they also showed you how to clean the windows.

Or maybe you have never cleaned a window in your life, but have you ever washed dishes? Even such a simple task has a first time, a time when someone provided you with what you needed..... water, sink or bucket, sink stopper, dishwashing liquid, and a scrubber or cloth and showed you how to do it.

In the Christian life, we have a task to do: **live godly**.

In this lesson we will look at what God has provided to equip believers for life and godliness.

Lets begin with the penman that bares the books name Simon Peter, (see 2 peter 1:1) a unique person for several reasons.

1. He received his name "Peter from CHRIST ( Matthew 16: 16-18) who changed his name from Simon Barjona (v.17 to Peter (v. 18) after his great confession affirming Jesus' deity (v. 16).
2. He had twofold credentials (2 Peter 1:1). He was both a servant of Christ and an apostle. The order is significant. As a servant he was always ready to obey the orders given to him by his Master. Peter had a servant's heart, which was combined with his authority as an apostle.
3. Even as an apostle, Peter was one of a group of Christians; he was not above them (2 Peter 1:1). Although he was one the leaders of the church in Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18,19), he affirmed that he was, nevertheless, only "an" apostle and not "the" apostle of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1). He has an important place in church history, but only as a servant and an apostle of Christ.

#### **Scripture memorization verse**



Meditate on the fact that GOD provides all that we need to live godly. Thank GOD that we can be what HE desires we be.

#### ***2 Pet 1:3***

***3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (KJV)***



## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

let alone to have heard or seen, all that God has prepared for us within His promises (1 Corinthians 2:9). These promises are also precious, for they include all that we need for our Christian walk. The purpose for these promises is that we might share in God's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). A share in God's nature does not make us little gods. It also does not mean that we will be absorbed somehow into the Godhead. It does mean that we share in certain attributes of God, which are often referred to as God's communicable attributes. Some of these are mercy, kindness, longsuffering, and forbearance (Colossians 3:12). As a result of becoming sharers in the divine nature, we are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our participation in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) is simultaneous to experiencing eternal life and godliness (v. 3).

### Escaped the corruption

The transforming experience that Peter described is a radical one (2 Peter 1:4). When we began to share in God's nature, we separated ourselves from the moral corruption resident in the world. Man is a sinner by nature, and his inner illicit desires corrupt him and society as well. The apostle John told us that the lusts and pride of humans belong only to the world and are diametrically opposed to God (1 John 2:16).

A person may appear to have escaped the moral corruption that characterizes the world, but he may eventually be overpowered by it (2 Peter 1:4). The fatal problem is that such a person is not a partaker of the divine nature and has not really disengaged him self from moral pollution. This is the situation with false teachers (2:20, 21). The point is that participation in the divine nature and separation from the world's lust and pride are inseparable. We have crossed the point of no return. We share in God's nature and are equipped to live godly lives while continually fleeing the world's decadence.

### Starting with Faith

*Definition of faith according to Websters 1828 Dictionary: faith - Belief, the assent of mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence; the judgment that what another states or testifies is the truth.*

Faith in God's promises generates a chain of internal and external changes (2 Peter 1:5). By faith we have become sharers in the divine nature. Peter stressed the believer's responsibility in the outworking of his salvation. This is the meaning of "*and beside this*." We are to bring, alongside our faith-commitment to God, those things that are consistent with godly living. This living requires diligence on our part, but we have the resources of God's power and HIS promises.

The apostle Paul exhorted believers to "*work out your own salvation*" (Philippians 2:12, 13), which is parallel to Peter's "*add to your faith*" (2 Peter 1:5). The charge from both apostles is for us to live godly, not to obtain salvation, but because we are saved. Salvation is solely by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8, 9). We diligently implement our salvation in godly living and, thereby, realize the purpose for it.

Faith is foundational and functional to spiritual maturity (2 Peter 1:5). We receive God's grace through faith. Character development follows. Faith is a virtue and the root of all the other virtues that mark spiritual maturity and character development.

### Flower of Faith

Peter presented a list of character qualities to be added to our faith (2 Peter 1:5-7). We grow in these virtues through our Christian experience. The list has a logical flow we must begin with faith. In addition, the list has progression; the virtues are added one after

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

another. Peter was, sketching a description of Christian character. The sketch is like a flower, with each virtue being a petal. Believers are to embody these virtues at all times. The apostle was both describing and prescribing what ought to be true of us.

### Virtue and Knowledge

Virtue is mentioned after faith (2 Peter 1:5). Virtue is goodness. We reflect God's character when we behave virtuously, for God is virtuous (v. 3). Simply stated, God is telling us to be good!

Knowledge is next on Peter's list (v. 5). We are to increase our knowledge of God (3:18). This is more than accumulating information bites. The more we know about God, the more intimately we come to know Him. As we believe and obey His promises, worship Him, draw upon His power, and commit our opportunities and needs to Him in trust and reliance on Him, we grow in our knowledge of Christ.

### Temperance, Patience, and Godliness

Temperance, or self-control, follows knowledge (2 Peter 1:6). In the New Testament era it was an athletic term used of strict discipline. Athletes were required to abstain from all unwholesome food, drink, and sexual indulgence in preparation for the contests. Temperance ranks alongside sobriety, righteousness, and holiness for the believer (Titus 1:8). Self-control, as well as all of the other virtues, necessitates God's power for implementation.

Peter added patience next to the list of virtues (2 Peter 1:6). Patience is perseverance, for the word means "*to remain under.*" In the trials of life, what we really are comes to the forefront. Patience is persisting in our confidence in God while experiencing suffering and the storms of life (Romans 5:3, 4; James 1:3, 4). Patience has for its object the truth that God is in complete control of every situation (Romans 8:28). God's power enables us to believe and persevere. Growing in patience and growing in knowledge are parallel developments.

Godliness appears next on Peter's list (2 Peter 1:6). People often confuse godliness with religiosity. Godliness is respect and reverence toward God, not simply being religious (1 Timothy 4:8). Godliness arises out of our faith in God, for trusting in Him prompts our respect and reverence of Him. At the same time, respect and reverence for God prompt us to trust and rely on Him completely.

### Brotherly Kindness and Charity

The final two character qualities on Peter's list express love (2 Peter 1:7). The term "brotherly kindness" refers to the love that Christians have toward each other as brothers in Christ. We share together in the faith and in the power and promises of God. Our relationship in the bonds of love is different from all other human relationships.

The last virtue is charity. We owe a debt of love to all men (Romans 13:8), even our enemies (Matthew 5:44). God models this kind of love, as well as provides us with the ability to facilitate it. God loved us because He is love, not because of who we are (John 3:16).

**The virtue of love is marked by an indiscriminate love for all people.**

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Time for Action**

- Make a list of how you have experienced God's grace and mercy in recent days. Express your thanks to God for these expressions of His grace and mercy. Let other people, both saved and unsaved, know about this list.
- If you are a believer, thank God daily that you have a personal relationship with God. Ask yourself the question, "How well do I know Him?" Are you constantly growing in your knowledge of God through the study and application of His Word?
- Identify any struggles that you may have with disengaging yourself from the moral pollution of the world, and turn the matter over to God, trusting His power to deliver.
- Do a personal Christian character check. What character qualities from Peter's list need special attention? Remember that God has given us all that we need to mature spiritually. Each of us may be the only Christian striving to walk the Christian walk in the office, in the classroom, in the dorm or on the block in which we live, we all can achieve our greatest potential that GOD desires of us.

**Notes**

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Lesson 1****2 Peter 1**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

all answers MUST include a scripture reference

1. How does one get more grace and peace ?
2. What verse explains that Our GOD has not short changed any Christian ?
3. A Mature Christian, does not need to be diligent ?
4. What are six things that follow godliness ?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
5. If I go to church and go to the bar (or any other worldly entertainment) I can still walk with GOD, explain your answer in detail.
6. What are the 3 attributes of tribulation ?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
7. Explain Romans 8: 28 in light of the information learned in this lesson ?

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

8. According to 2 Peter 1:3, for what did God's power equip us the moment we were saved ?
9. What was Peter referring to specifically when he used the word "called" in verse 3 (2 Peter 1)?
10. Also according to verse 3, why did God call us ?
11. In addition to being called, what do we receive due to God's glory and virtue ?
12. What are the 7 pedals of the faith flower
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  - F.
  - G.

**True/False**

- Peter is the Rock on which the church is built
- We will eventually become gods
- Salvation is by GOD's grace plus works

Memorize the following scriptures (write them on the back of this page)

2 Peter 1:3

John 17: 3

2 Corinthians 5: 17

Romans 5: 3-5

Philippians 2:12, 13; 3:10

Are there any questions ?