

THE BIBLE: ALL THE RIGHT STUFF
2 PETER 1:2-4

INTRODUCTION

I want to ask each and every one of you to commit to doing three things this year:

1. **Commit to Church Attendance.**
 - a. I know a lot of you travel and have to be gone.
 - b. But if you do miss, I want to ask you to go to www.daneboyles.com and listen to the message because these messages build on top of each other.
 - c. These lessons are very important to your growth.
2. **Commit to Life Group Participation.**
 - a. I want you to be willing to invest time to grow as a person.
 - b. These Life Groups are critical to your growth.
 - c. These Life Groups allow you to interact with others about God's Word.
 - d. It's a place for you to discuss what you are learning.
3. **Commit to apply one biblical principle that you learn each week in your life.**
 - a. That's 52 principles during 2006 that you will have implemented in your life.
 - b. That's really exciting!
 - c. Each one of us can really do this!

Which of us here doesn't need to change and be more like Christ?

We all do!

That's why knowing and doing are key components of personal change.

If you'll do this—make these three commitments and follow through—you'll see personal spiritual change in 2006.

We all know that every good recipe has two things.

What are they? Ingredients and instructions.

The recipe has everything you need to make a good dish of food. Right?

Well, God has done the same for us in our lives.

He has provided us with a book that has all the right stuff!

That book is called the Bible.

It has 66 books that were given to us by the Holy Spirit.

There is a passage in the NT book of 2 Peter that tells us
what the Bible's role is
and what God wants for us
if we'll
read it,
study it,
discuss it
and apply it.

It is also important that Peter is the one who writes this.

Does everyone remember who Peter is?

- He's the one who got out of the boat and walked on water for a few steps before he started to sink.
- He's the one who drew his sword and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear in the garden before Jesus' arrest and trial.

- He's the one who denied Jesus three times after Jesus' arrest.
- He's the one who refused to believe the women's words when they came back from the empty tomb following Jesus' resurrection.

Yet he's the one who helps us understand what the Bible is for in verses 2-4,

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 life and godliness 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 and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Peter 1:2-4)*

If the Bible is to be what God means for it to be
then that means
that we must have ONE PURSUIT:

A relationship with Jesus Christ...because it gives us
the wisdom and the power to experience the divine life.

Did you hear that?

It gives us the wisdom and power *to participate in the divine nature.*

Verse 2 says,

² *Grace and peace be yours...*

- Grace is the divine pardon.

and

- Peace is the divine partnership.

If that's not amazing enough...

1. to be forgiven by God
2. and to be in a partnership with the Creator,

I want you to notice something that is indeed astonishing!

It's what I call the multiplying factor...because Peter writes...

² *Grace and peace be yours in abundance...*

In abundance?

Here's what I mean by the multiplying factor...

What's $2 \times 2 = 4$

What's $4 \times 4 = 16$

What's $16 \times 16 = 256$

What's $256 \times 256 = 65,536$

What's $65,536 \times 65,536 = 42,949,672$

42 million, nine hundred forty nine thousand, six hundred seventy two.

God want us to multiply our peace and grace,
not just to add on little by little!

That's what Peter means when he says *in abundance*.

Wow... *in abundance*!

Too often we operate according to an "add-on philosophy"
wherein we limit God to what we can imagine.

Peter says, “Hey, God means for you to experience His grace and peace exponentially!

That’s 100s to 1000s to 10,000s to 1 million to 10 million to one billion.

Peter says, “That’s life!”

Does anyone here want to experience that kind of life?

If you do, you have to see what Peter is telling us next...

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Peter says that we must have ONE LIFE:

All life is spiritual life...

We don’t have an emotional life, a physical life, a relational life...

We have a spiritual life.

All these things are connected with the spiritual.

We can no longer compartmentalize ourselves.

Everything is related to our spiritual health.

If your spirit isn’t healthy emotionally, physically, relationally you suffer.

It’s your spiritual health that determines everything else.

Did you catch what Peter is saying?

Everything we need for life and godliness...is found in God’s Word.

Jesus told a parable once about a treasure that a man found in a field.

The treasure was so rich
that he went and sold everything he had
and went and bought that field.

Peter is saying something very similar here.

The Bible, God's Word, is a treasure but also a treasure to be mined.

When we mine God's Word
we come to know Jesus
and then we can experience God.

This comes...

³ *through our knowledge of him*

It's not just knowing facts about Him but knowing Him.

If someone said, "I know George Bush. I met the President and shook his hand."

If someone else said, "I know George Bush. I have read all of George Bush's speeches and read books about him.

But if Laura Bush said, "I know George Bush. I live with him. He's my husband."

We know there's a difference. Laura has experienced George.

To know God, we have to know and experience Him...
not just read and talk about Him.

You see, to know and experience God
we must pursue God's plan because...

Pursuing God's plan will lead to the fulfillment of God's promises.

That's rather amazing! But there are TWO PATHS according to verse 4,

⁴ *Through these (that is, his glory and moral excellence mentioned in v. 3) he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (2 Peter 1:4)*

I'll mention the second path first...

1. Living by evil desires leads to a wasted life.

- We know that because of the word “escape.”

escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires

- *Escape* carries the meaning of “getting out of a burning building.”
- *Corruption* means “moral decay.”
- We are born into a dangerous situation and we must escape it.
- If not, we'll be burned up eternally.

But the fact is some people aren't interested in escaping the corruption of the world.

Why?

1. *Maybe I'm scared to give up the fleshly stuff.*

- Our fleshly stuff gives us the illusion safety and security.
- We have a hard time seeing beyond the stuff.

2. *I'm comfortable and satisfied with where I'm at.*

- Don't inconvenience me.
- I am fine just where I am at.
- I can take care of myself.

3. *I've gone too far in one direction; I think I'm unredeemable.*

In a nationally televised college football game on ABC a football player once picked up a fumble and was so disoriented that he ran the ball 65 yards in the wrong direction. A teammate ran him down and tackled him to save the points.

At halftime the player just sat in the corner with a blanket over his head. After the coach's inspirational speech at halftime, all the players left, but he just sat there. The coach came over and said, "Let's go." He said, "I can't go out there. I have embarrassed my team, my family and myself." The coach looked at him and said, "There's still a half left. Go out there and redeem yourself." The young man got up and played his heart out in the second half.

You're never too far for God.

He redeems the unredeemable.

That's the kind of God He is.

He redeems the unredeemable.

2. Living by God's design leads to becoming like Jesus.

So that through them you may participate in the divine nature (2 Pet 1:4)

- We have the ability to take on the characteristics of God!
- Just look at this:

God wants to restore what was lost in the beginning in the Garden of Eden.

That's the normal course of life of the Christian.

That's the normal course of life is to exponentially become like Jesus.

The old pattern falls away.

The normal course in life is to be in fellowship with God!!!

How do we experience God exponentially?

By knowing God and Jesus Christ!

The recipe for knowing God and Jesus is found in God's Word.

This is why the Bible has all the right stuff.

It has all we need for life and godliness ³ *through our knowledge of him*

When we do this we *participate in the divine nature*.

In other words, we become what we were meant to become.

Our lives exponentially experience God!

CONCLUSION

This is why I want you to:

Commit to Church Attendance.

Commit to Life Group Participation.

Commit to apply one biblical principle that you learn each week in your life.

Jesus is the answer!

Let Him be your answer.

Jesus went to the cross and died for you.

Will you come to Jesus today?

Please come as we stand and sing.