

Precious Promises

2 Peter 1:1-4

Message #1 of 1 – S1026

Sermon given on December 11, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

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# Living in the Promises

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

﻿**Opening Comments**

* Turn to **2 Peter 1**
* Today, we are going to talk about promises
* Christmas is two weeks away
* I know many of you have your trees up and there are gifts wrapped under the tree
* Every one of those gifts is a promise, hopefully, of something good
* Today we are going to talk about some promises that are better than good
* Let’s pray and ask for God’s presence here this morning
* **Pray**

### Teaching

* **Living in the Promises**
* Peter is not known for always saying the right things
* But here in this text he says something that is radical and can be a source of great joy and peace - But first
* **2 Peter 1:1-2**
* First, he identifies himself
* ‘Simon’ was the name he was born with – ‘Peter’ was the name that Jesus gave him
* Two titles, ‘bondservant’ – by choice – chose to be a servant of Jesus – ‘apostle’ – appointed by Jesus
* Then who the letter is addressed to ‘those who obtained like precious faith’ = those who have the same faith we do
* This is written to believers – like you and me
* Then the source of that faith, ‘the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ’
* Not something we did for ourselves **Titus 3:5**

…not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit…

* Verse 1 ends with a radical statement, ‘our God and Savior Jesus Christ’
* The Greek grammar of that indicates that both God and Savior are referring to Jesus
* **2 Peter 1:3**
* God’s divine power, the power that created and sustains this universe, has given to us all things
* Notice that ‘given’ is in the past tense – not future
* We are not waiting for these things; they are ours today
* What things – the ‘things that pertain to life and godliness’
* God has already given you everything you need to live in His divine power
* He has already given you everything you need to live well
* Everything you need to live a life that glorifies God, blesses others, and grows in faith
* Paul said something similar **Colossians 2:9-10**

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

* Our problem is not that we are lacking something from God, it is that we do not know how to access what He has already given us
* Peter tells us that we access everything that God gave us for life and godliness ‘through the knowledge of Him’
* That word knowledge = ‘epignosis’ = precise and correct knowledge
* This is why false teaching and doctrine is so dangerous to us
* As Christians we are exceedingly wealthy spiritually
* And we have much to lose if we wander from a true knowledge of God
* It was this reality that inspired Paul to write **1 Corinthians 2:2**

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

* Our greatest prayer ought to be that we would grow in our knowledge of God and Jesus
* Not only does knowledge of God and Christ unlock everything we need for life and godliness, Peter goes to say it unlocks something else
* **2 Peter 1:4**
* It is estimated that there are over 30,000 promises in the Bible
* **John Bunyan**, writer of Pilgrim’s Progress said

The pathway of life is strewn so thickly with the promises of God that it is impossible to take one step without treading upon one of them.

* God has given everything we need for this life and godliness
* Everything we need to be like Christ is already ours
* And with that truth is the promise that God has given us ‘exceedingly great and precious promises’ so that we can live the life He created us for
* I have said many times before, I love the fact that these are not just promises
* They are not just precious promises
* They are not just great and precious promises
* They are exceedingly great and precious promises
* I wonder if Peter had to restrain himself from adding other adjectives, like, amazing, wonderful, super, and of course - radical
* We unlock those promises through an intimate, precise, and correct knowledge of God, Christ, and the working of the Holy Spirit
* Let’s look at one **2 Corinthians 12:9**

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

* To fully unlock the promises in this verse, I need to know and understand God’s grace, strength, and power
* I need to understand intimately how God operates in my insufficiency, weakness, and infirmities
* The better I know Jesus, the more powerful a verse like this becomes
* It releases power in my life that sustains and carries me through whatever comes into my life
* There is a promise in the middle of verse 4 – ‘through these you may be partakers of the divine nature’
* Peter is not saying that we will become divine, like the Mormons believe
* By growing in our knowledge of God and unlocking His promises to us, we experience the very nature of God
* This happens through the operation of the Holy Spirit **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

* If you are not experiencing the working of the Holy Spirit in your life, get to know Jesus better, find His promises for you and your life
* Forty-one years ago, last Monday, Kelly and I stood in front of a minister and made promises to each other
* Those promises were meant to form the basis of how we lived our life together
* As much as I wish it wasn’t true, I have not kept those promises perfectly
* In fact, I’m not even sure I can say I have done it well
* I have not always honored her the way I should
* I have not cherished her as much as I should have
* I have not always been patient, kind, and gentle
* And I know with absolute certainty that I have not always loved her sacrificially
* Because she is such a gracious woman, I am sure she would say that she never expected me to be perfect
* But in my heart, I know I should have been better, and I will try to do that
* God’s Word contains thousands of promises for His people
* Unlike me, God is always faithful to keep all His promises perfectly **Hebrews 10:23**

Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

* His promises do not fade, they do not change, and they never, ever end
* Forty-one years ago, Kelly and I exchanged rings – symbols of the promises we made to each other
* God gave us something far better than rings to remind us of His promises – He gave us His Word and His Holy Spirit
* As I open up God’s Word, the Holy Spirit opens up my heart and mind to who God is, what He has done, and what He promises to do
* And as I grow in my faith, I experience more of God in my life and I can see Him working in every part of my life
* And as I grow in my faith, I am better able to connect the circumstances of my life to the promises of God in those things
* And as my faith grows through His Word and by His Holy Spirit, the more I trust God to keep His promises
* And the more I trust God to keep His promises, the more peace, joy, and power I experience in my life
* Those realities do not apply just to me
* God’s promises apply to all God’s people all the time
* And He is always faithful to keep all His promises
* And as Peter tells us, God’s promises are exceedingly great and precious
* Regardless of where this message finds you this morning, lean back into and trust in God’s exceedingly great and precious promises
* That is the key that unlocks the best possible life you can live
* It opens the door for you to be ‘partakers of the divine nature’
* God’s best is promised to God’s people
* It is so important to God that His people experience His best that He sent His own Son to make a way for it to be possible
* As we are in the season of remembering the gift of Jesus given to the world, let us remind ourselves that is not a once-a-year gift – it is a gift to be enjoyed every day
* Jesus is the reason for the season
* And Jesus is the way to the exceedingly great and precious promises of God – the only way
* Let’s have a Merry Christmas – not because of all the usual reasons
* Those are all good – but the real reason is because God loves you so much that He sent His Son to be born into the world so that you could be partakers of the divine nature through the exceedingly great and precious promises of God
* Have a Merry Christmas
* Amen – **Pray**