



Be Who You Are

Main Text for The Week: *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." (2 Peter 1:5-7 KJV).*

Read and Meditate on these Texts:

*2 Peter 1:1-15; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 10:38; Romans 6:11;
1 Corinthians 15:12-57; James 1:3-4*

Main Thought for the Week: The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Peter, presents to us the doctrine of “Righteousness by Faith” in a very practical fashion, using the metaphor of a ladder - the Ladder of Grace. He outlines for us the reality of God’s power in the life of a believer of Jesus Christ, emphasizing that we can become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4) and that we can be free from the corruption and lust that is in the world. Peter manages to cover all of this and more in just 14 verses of scripture, presenting to us a concise, yet comprehensive view of God’s plan of redemption in the life of the Christian, as well as what happens at death.



A Precious Faith

Sunday's Summary – May 21:

1. What are some of the things that Peter indicates that we have been given in Jesus Christ? **(2 Peter 1:1-4)** _____

2. What is a key element that is needed for the Christian to be able to take advantage of what God has provided here? **(Hebrews 11:6)** _____

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: Peter begins this letter by saying that it is addressed to those who “have obtained like precious faith with us” **(2 Peter 1:1)**. The word translated as “precious” means “of equal value,” or “of equal privilege.” He says that they have “obtained” this precious faith; not that they earned it or deserved it, but that they have obtained it from God. It is “obtained” because we receive it - and all other promises of God - by faith. Or, as Paul has written: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” **(Ephesians 2:8)**.

Discussion Thought: What would your life be like if you were devoid of faith?

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Love, the Goal of Christian Virtue

Monday's Summary – May 22:

1. How are the following texts similar to **2 Peter 1:5-7**?

(Romans 5:3-5) _____

(James 1:3-4) _____

(Galatians 5:22-23) _____

2. Why is love the ultimate destination or goal of Christian virtue? (**1 John 4:7**) _____

ILLUMINATION: “God alone can lead you to so recognize His mercy, love, and forbearance that you will have the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. This is the gift of God. It is the opening of the heart to receive the Word which is as the leaves of the tree of life. May God fill your heart with His love so that it may be said that you ... have purified your soul by obeying the truth. Believing in Christ and receiving His transforming grace is not guesswork, but a work which causes Christ’s virtues to be reflected in mind and character. When you gain this experience you will say, ‘I have tasted and seen that the Lord is good. The Lord Jesus shall be my portion forever.’ ”
- Ellen G. White, **Manuscript Release 18**, p. 79.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Be Who You Are

Tuesday’s Summary – May 23:

1. What is it that enables a Christian to live like Christ? (2 Peter 1:8-11; Romans 6:11) _____

2. What does Peter mean by the following: “giving all diligence,”? (2 Peter 1:5) _____

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: Peter urges his readers to live according to the new reality that is true for them in Jesus. The characteristics of faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love “are in you and abound” (2 Peter 1:8). In Christ, we have received forgiveness, cleansing, and the right to partake in the divine nature. Therefore we must “give diligence to make your calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10). There’s no excuse for living as we have lived before, and no excuse for being “barren” or “unfruitful” Christians.

ILLUMINATION: “We hear a great deal about faith, but we need to hear a great deal more about works. Many are deceiving their own souls by living an easy-going, accommodating, crossless religion.” - Ellen G. White, **Faith and Works**, p. 50.

Appeal: Why not take some time right now to pray for the mind of Christ that you might be able to “be all you can be” by the grace of God? _____

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Shedding the Tent

Wednesday's Summary – May 24:

SUMMARY THOUGHTS: We should always bear in mind that whenever the Bible talks about death - especially in the New Testament - it does so in the context of a resurrection (1st or 2nd), and not in the context of the immortality of the soul.

1. What tabernacle is Peter referring to in **2 Peter 1:13-15**? _____

2. The Apostle Paul makes a very strong argument about resurrection in his first letter to the Corinthians. What point is he trying to get across? (**1 Corinthians 15:12-15**)

3. What is the point of encouragement that Paul is offering to the Thessalonian believers? (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**) _____

Appeal: Are you as prepared for the first resurrection as was the Apostle Peter? Why not pledge right now, that you will devote some time each and every day to this question?

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Faith in the Face of Death

Thursday's Summary – May 25:

1. How does Peter appear to deal with the reality of his impending death, and what does that attitude teach us about faith? (2 Peter 1:12-15) _____

2. How does this compare with what the Apostle Paul wrote? (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

ILLUMINATION: “Peter, as a Jew and a foreigner, was condemned to be scourged and crucified. In prospect of this fearful death, the apostle remembered his great sin in denying Jesus in the hour of His trial. Once so unready to acknowledge the cross, he now counted it a joy to yield up his life for the gospel, feeling only that, for him who had denied his Lord, to die in the same manner as his Master died was too great an honor. Peter had sincerely repented of that sin and had been forgiven by Christ, as is shown by the high commission given him to feed the sheep and lambs of the flock. But he could never forgive himself. Not even the thought of the agonies of the last terrible scene could lessen the bitterness of his sorrow and repentance. As a last favor he entreated his executioners that he might be nailed to the cross with his head downward. The request was granted, and in this manner died the great apostle Peter.” - Ellen G. White, **The Acts of the Apostles**, pp. 537, 538.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____



Jesus Christ, the Deliverer

Friday's Summary – May 26:

Discussion Thought: In light of all that Peter (and the rest of the Bible writers) have written about the need for Christians to live holy lives, why do so many of us fail to live up to the standard of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit? _____

Appeal: Are you willing to surrender fully to God in order for God to use you fully? Will you commit your way to Him by faith, so that the Holy Spirit can empower you to live the holy life that the Bible teaches is possible (and necessary)?

Final Thoughts: We at Metro New York World Ministry are committed to preach and teach that the life that Jesus Christ lived on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit is available to us today via the new birth experience. Holy living is not simply something that God counts in our favor - it is something that God enables us to do through the power of the Holy Spirit, as we surrender our lives and our wills to Him. These precious promises that have been given unto us, and made sure by the blood of Christ, are only available by grace through faith. It is not anything that we can merit, but we must obtain it by faith. As we exercise faith in Christ, Divine power will be provided to live out the principles of righteousness which are clearly taught in the Bible.

PERSONAL NOTES: _____
