

# **“Is Your Faith Real?”**

## **2 Peter 1:1-4**

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### **I. Introduction**

\* “A Chinese boy who wanted to learn about jade went to study a talented old teacher. This gentleman put a piece of the precious stone into his hand and told him to hold it tight. Then he began to talk of philosophy, men, women, the sun, and almost everything under it. After an hour he took back the stone and sent the boy home. The procedure was repeated for several weeks. The boy became frustrated. When would he be told about the jade? He was too polite, however, to question the wisdom of his venerable teacher. Then one day, when the old man put a stone into his hands, the boy cried out instinctively, "That's not jade." He had become so familiar with the genuine that he could immediately detect a counterfeit." – Haddon W. Robinson

\* Peter wrote his second epistle because of his deep concern that his readers know the difference between a true and a false faith (2 Peter 3:17-18)

#### **A. How Satan attacks the church**

1. Persecution from the outside (1 Peter)
2. Poison on the inside from the pulpit or the pews (2 Peter)
3. 1 Peter dealt with submissions to God as the proper response to suffering without
4. 2 Peter focuses on growing in grace and knowledge as the proper response to error from within
  - a) The best antidote for error is a mature understanding of the truth (God's Word)
5. In chapters 1-4, Peter lays the foundation for his letter by making five important affirmations about true or real faith

### **II. It's a Like Precious Faith (2 Peter 1:1)**

#### **A. What does Peter mean by “like precious faith?”**

1. The word "precious" means "equal value."
  - a) It was used for foreigners who had been granted the privileges of citizenship, which were equal to those of natural-born citizens.
2. Peter is saying that the faith given to them by God is of equal honor or value with that of the apostles (Acts 10)
3. “To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours” (N.A.S.B.)
4. If we have real faith, it gives us the same standing and spiritual privileges as the apostles.
  - a) It doesn't matter whether you're an apostle or the most obscure of believers, a Jew or a Gentile, a man or a woman, a freeman or a slave.

- B. This "like precious faith" is not attained; it is obtained (v. 1)
1. It is a gift of God's grace
  2. So, this "like precious faith."
    - a) Justifies
    - b) Sanctifies
    - c) Glorifies
  3. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)
  4. Have you obtained "like precious faith?"

### **III. Its Faith in a Person (2 Peter 1:1-2)**

- A. "Our God and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 1)
1. The object of our faith is Jesus
    - a) He's God
      - 1) "not pilfering, but showing all good [b]fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." (Titus 2:10)
      - 2) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)
      - 3) "And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)
      - 4) "of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen." (Romans 9:5)
      - 5) "But to the Son, He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." (Hebrews 1:9)
      - 6) "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;" (Colossians 2:9)
    - b) He's our Savior
    - c) He's the Christ
    - d) He's the Lord
- B. Grace and peace come to us through the knowledge of God and Jesus, our Lord. (v. 2)
1. How do we get this knowledge? Through the Bible.
  2. What's the object of your faith?

### **IV. It's a Faith That Involves God's Power (2 Peter 1:3)**

- A. Just as faith in Jesus Christ saves us from the penalty of sin, it also saves us from the power of sin.
1. He has given us divine power

- a) "For all things that pertain unto life and godliness." (v. 3)
- b) All true Christians have all they need
- c) Illustration- Lazarus (John 11)
- d) God has given us all we need to live godly lives

2. What has God given us?

- a) The Holy Spirit
- b) The Holy Word
- c) The false teachers claimed to have a special, new doctrine that would bring them victory in their daily lives.
- d) It is the Spirit of God that gives us victory.

## V. Its Faith in a Person (2 Peter 1:1-2)

A. True saving faith is a faith that rests on and acts on the promises found in God's Word, the Bible.

- 1. It is estimated that there are at least 30,000 promises in the Bible. John Bunyan once 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."*

B. God's promises are two things.

- 1. "Exceedingly great" (v. 4) because they come from a great God
  - a) He is just and holy, so He cannot lie
  - b) He is all-knowing, so He cannot forget
  - c) He is unchanging, so He cannot change
  - d) He is all-powerful, so He can do what He promised
- 2. "Precious" (v. 4), because their value is beyond calculation
  - a) Hudson J. Taylor started a bank account for the China Island Mission in Brighton, England. On the application where he was asked to designate his assets, he wrote, "Ten pounds and the promises of God."
  - b) Do you bank on the promises of God?

## VI. Real Faith Makes Us Partakers of the Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4)

A. When do we become partakers of the divine nature?

- 1. What does it mean to be a partaker of the divine nature?

- a) It is not that we become divine
- b) It is when we become "born again."
- 1) At the moment we are born again or saved, we (v. 4) "escape the corruption in the world caused by lust or evil desires."
- 2. Nature determines
  - a) Appetite
  - b) Behavior
  - c) Environment
  - d) Association
  - e) Godly living is the result of cultivating the new nature within

## **V. Conclusion**

### **A. What is real faith?**

1. It is the same precious faith that the apostles had
2. It is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ
3. It involves God's power for life and godliness
4. It rests on God's great and precious promises
5. It produces a new nature within
6. A real Christian has received the divine bestowal of the spiritual life