

## **God's Blueprint for Growing to Maturity in Christ**

In 2 Peter, God has given us a blueprint for life as followers of His.

It is possible and often the case that born again believers live a relatively, unfruitful, and unproductive Christian life.

To prevent that from happening God has given to us directions for life that if we follow them, we will always produce a life of productiveness;

There are 3 parts to this blueprint.

### **In 1 Peter 1:1-4 We have the Tools for life.**

#### **A. Precious Faith.**

God has given to every believer the power to believe the gospel for Salvation. This faith is the gift of God. When Peter says that this faith is the same kind as ours, He is talking about the fact it is just as valuable as ours, and that it has equal privileges as ours, this faith is the faith that saves Eph. 2: 8-9 and it is good for life and godliness.

Secondly

#### **B. Divine Power**

God has granted to the believer His Divine Power That power is of the same nature as that which resurrected Christ from the dead.

They have received this power in everything necessary to equip them for sanctification. Christians have every Spiritual resource needed to preserve in Holy living, He has everything necessary to preserve and to grow, because of this Divine Power. He has lack of nothing. Even while we endure the secular environment, and issues, we can live godly in Christ, so then how do we experience this to the fullest?

### **C. Precious Promises**

By the attributes of His Glory, and excellence, He has granted us His precious promises.

Peter describes all the salvation promises in Christ as precious. Meaning they are valuable and they are of the highest quality.

These Precious promises are Spiritual life, Resurrected life, abundant Grace, guidance, strength, instruction, wisdom, eternal rewards.

### **Construction of a Life.**

There is a three fold stage in bldg.

Because of all the precious promises that believers have, and because they have received everything pertaining to life and godliness, they must respond with major effect toward growing and living for Christ.

#### **A. Foundation**

So first and foremost in every bldg. project is the foundation, the ground has to be prepared, and then the foundation is laid.

For the believer, the process is that God begins to draw him to himself, He begins to prepare the ground.

#### **B. The understructure of separation.**

“Having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” v 4 b.

Because the believer has been born again, he has a good foundation, a solid footing to build on, he now has been separated from the bondage of sin, and has been set free from it's power, and has been given power over sin, he has now been placed in a new world in Christ .II Cor. 5:17

Because he lives in this world he still has a fascination with the wicked world about him.

He still has indwelling sin and Satan who is continually there to tempt him.

He also recognizes that he cannot live with one foot in a wicked society, and another in the kingdom of God, and have any real prosperity in his new life.

## **C. The Superstructure of Spiritual Maturity. v 5-7**

### **1st Floor**

Giving all diligence we are to add seven graces to our Christian life.

Even though we may be saved and separated we are not done yet.

1) v 5 Giving all diligence we are asked to add, or supply seven graces of the Christian life in the construction of a seven-story house. The ground floor of that is Moral excellence, can be defined as Virtue, or Character, or integrity.

Just as with the foundation this first floor will need good support to carry the floors up above, and so God begins with moral excellence.

### **Knowledge**

Next to moral Excellence we are to add knowledge

2) Knowledge is practical, experiential knowledge. It speaks of discernment, (Hebrews 5:13-14) It is the wisdom to decide rightly, and act honorably in the day to day decisions of life.

### **Self Control**

3) Third floor of our bldg. is self control. Self control is defined as to literally getting a grip on oneself.

In historic Greek it depicted the person who still had passion, but passion was under the control of his reason. Mind over emotion. It means to holding oneself in.

### **Perseverance**

4) Perseverance —Steadfastness in the irritations of life.

How much does it take to get you to quit?

To persevere is to keep on keeping on. To persevere has a lot to do with trials or hardships, having patience, in real difficult situations. It requires patience whether that is with other people, with sickness, with loss of jobs, with loss of family members or friends, and to continue on even when things don't go the way we want or expect them to go, realizing that all things are working together for Your good.

### **Godliness**

5) At the heart of spiritual pursuit or growth is the virtue of Godliness.

This has two dynamics, and goes in two directions.

The person who is godly correctly worships God and reverences Him properly.

He also relates to his fellow man and gives him his proper due.

This is more of an atmosphere of life than an outward conduct.

### **Brotherly Kindness**

6) Brotherly Kindness.

Brotherly Kindness— toleration, consideration, understanding, and sharing our lives, with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is a virtue that Peter must have acquired, probably the hard way, for the disciples of our Lord often debated, and disagreed with one another. If we Love Jesus Christ we must love the brethren.

There is more to Christian growth and brotherly love: we must also have **a sacrificial love**, the type of love that our Lord displayed when he went to the cross; the kind of love that God shows.