

## The God of Relationship Pt. 3

### II Peter 1:3-4 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, December 28, 2022 The Unbelievable

Book calling for life of godliness in face of false teaching, Right from greeting, saw assumptions we need to remember if we are truly born again; **1. Clear hierarchy**—Simon Peter, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, slave/master, total devotion, total identity from master! **2. Clear mission**—an apostle of Jesus Christ focus not merely on mission, but the God who gives it and HIS supervision over total project; **3. Clear position**—To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, belonging equally w others belonging, **how can you say this and mean it when such gap between groups?** b/c focus not on me, but on One who gave both faith and mission--**by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:** once accept that focus NOT on you but on God, THEN can accept honor/privilege of being HIS servant as well as willing to share any dishonor HE receives—fellowship of His sufferings; but another tie, **4. Clear blessed provision** <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; focus not merely on well-favored, well-adjusted status that multiplies, but on the personal knowledge of this God and Jesus our Lord—relationship only possible through conversion; THIS what on Paul's mind as he continues, expounds on it **I. Gracious Glories of God's Calling v. 3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life general existence all way through eternity **and everything pertaining to godliness,** piety—reverence and loyalty leading to behavior expected of those born; **everything needed to live life pleasing to Him!;** to see His power, must see HIS hand in all to give/sustain/bring about life lived pleasing to Him; that's why very specific means through which this power given to us; **through the true knowledge of Him;** We use knowledge as means of protection, competence, identity—I know, therefore have worth) whatever truth in these, this not distant, cold, but a knowledge living inside relationship, product of conversion—see this relational aspect of His power as study how He brought about new birth/regeneration; **through the true knowledge of Him who called us** Called—not just invitation, effective calling—verses we looked up focused not merely on calling, **but purpose for calling I Pet. 1:15, 2:9, 2:21, 3:9, 5:10** **How did He call us bringing about this relationship?** **By granting what is needed for us to apprehend true knowledge of Lord Jesus**—and what does this true knowledge of Christ show us? **His own glory** (weight, worth, honor, majesty) how do you see it—through His **excellence**—His virtuous acts which are glorious—character, miracles, teaching—work of redemption His disciples saw and worshipped, true followers, Father Himself—this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased—all these witnesses show He takes great interest in us beholding His glorious work; we couldn't see, understand—but those saved have eyes opened throughout life to see more and they worship; Nisbet **“To give grace to graceless soul is a work of God's infinite power, there being so much unworthiness, guiltiness, and opposition to hinder that work in all the elect.”** P. 224 **“The very first beginnings of grace are wrought in the heart, by making a sinner drink in the knowledge of Christ: the law indeed prepares for this work by discovering sin and deserved wrath and terrifying the conscience, but the Gospel which holds out Christ the Saviour from sin and wrath, having in Him the fulness of grace, and a heart to let it out freely upon graceless sinners, is the Spirit's instrument of working grace”** Nisbet, pp. 224-225 ALL THIS result of demonstration of His power! **His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.** YES, power to come up w plan, to come to earth, to keep all pieces together against man's intent, devil's, to OBEY completely, but **relational part of power:** **That we perceive Him as glorious—that His beauty captures us,** THIS is miracle of conversion--**in other words, when Christ calls people to himself, they perceive the beauty and loveliness of his moral character. His character becomes exceedingly attractive to them, and they trust God for their salvation.”** Schreiner, p. 293 **grace and peace multiplied as we believe and live in light of seeing beauty of what done; II. Glories of God's Faithful Enablement v. 4** How secure is calling? Calling Backed by His **Precious and magnificent promises;** once again, not just words, it's words perceived--**For by these**—seems to refer to glory and excellence—**WHAT do we perceive?** Focus of all Christian living very tangible—**precious and magnificent promises** these words are not just words, but they are **MEANS of 2 life identifiers** **1. become partakers of the divine nature,** where do we tend to **focus when we look for God's precious/magnificent promises?** **Where should we focus if these promises result in evidences of effectual calling showing we share in the divine nature?** Toward God who makes us secure, toward how He makes us secure, toward difference between the two kingdoms—See clue in end of verse; new identity separates us from the world, particularly **2. having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.** Natural world corrupted Rom. 8:21, bodies not immortal I Cor. 15:42, 50, but material not evil, rather than selfish desires that drive humanity **Gal. 6:7-8** **Speaking of way of life resulting from new nature** (life/godliness) **goes WAY beyond I married my opposite,** FAR deeper than everyone who likes deviled eggs on one side and others on opposite; **something more powerful than deepest desires changing values of soul;** **divine nature;** NOT talking about becoming God, but characteristics of God that start being seen in our lives enabling us **to escape corruption in world by lust;** Moo pp. 55-56 **“Participating in the divine nature . . . enjoy our new status.”** p. 55 **“Too many popular portrayals of the Christian life assume that the Bible views human beings in what we might call “ontological” terms. That is, they assume that terms like body, soul, spirit, flesh, etc., refer to actual “parts” of the human being. When, therefore, the Bible speaks of Christians as “a new creation” in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) or as participating in the “divine nature,” they immediately suppose that Christians have actually become, in a total sense, a new creation or that they have a divine nature in place of the old sinful nature, with the assumption being that Christians cannot really sin anymore or that all Christians need to do in the battle against sin is do “what comes naturally.” In reality, the Bible uses most of these terms not in an ontological sense but in a relational sense. To be a new creation means to have a new, vital, and determinative relationship to Christ, not to have a new being that has replaced the old. The biblical authors, including Peter, know that Christians still sin; that is why they issue a lot of commands to fight the battle against sin. We must not err in taking away the significance of the language of transformation that the New Testament uses.”** Pp. 55-56 **How would seeing participation in the divine nature more in relational terms than in ontological terms change our focus and how we live life if we are truly saved?** NOT focused merely on transaction, **focused on God who gives life and then life we live enabled by God Himself**—MUST have background for this—  
**Jeremiah 31:31-34** “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”  
**Ezekiel 36:25-27** “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.  
**Romans 8:4** so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.  
**Colossians 3:10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—  
**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.  
**1 Timothy 6:17** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.  
**Titus 3:5-8** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.  
**1 John 3:2-3** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.