

June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Greatness Through Partaking in The Divine Nature!

*The qualities of the Divine Nature that are ours to grow in and build upon.*

### *2 Peter 1:1-11*

As followers of Christ, every Christian is called to greatness; God calls us ambassadors of the kingdom of heaven, but we are in the kingdom of darkness. God gives us a path of growth to follow to provide **a rich entrance** into the kingdom we are looking forward to. The kingdom of darkness is filled with anger and conflict.

❖ The problem: We aren't God, and when we encounter hard things, we need to grow in *how* to draw on Him.

*Ephesians 4:26 "In your anger do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger."*

*Ecclesiastes 7:9 "Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools."*

*Isaiah 54:8 "'In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,' says the Lord, your Redeemer."*

↳ *Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,"*

❖ The answer: Our precious faith in Christ includes all we need.

*2 Peter 1:11 "For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

↳ *2 Peter 1:1b "To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:"*

❖ **We need to be reminded:**

*2 Peter 1:3-4 "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."*

↳ *2 Corinthians 7:1 "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."*

➤ Partake: What God intends is that we *use* His Glory, His Promises, His Excellence to *partake* in all He has and is. (*koinonos*—Partner in the resources He provides.)

○ The Holy Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you! (*John 16:14*)

◆ This provides a rich entrance into the eternal kingdom

*2 Peter 1:5-7 "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love."*

◆ This keeps you from being ineffective or unfruitful

*2 Peter 1:8 "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

◆ Fruit and effectiveness come from remembering that we are cleansed from our former sins

2 Peter 1:9-11 “For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

❖ **The Seven qualities we supply from His storehouse:**

1. Supply Faith with Virtue
2. Virtue with Knowledge
3. Knowledge with Self Control
4. Self-Control with Steadfastness
5. Steadfastness with Godliness
6. Godliness with Brotherly Affection—*Philadelphia*
7. Brotherly Affection with Love —*Agape*

➤ **We all make *Faux Pas*—French means “false steps”**

↳ False steps are gifts to confess and ask for help.

- ◆ Growth is the key! If these qualities are *yours* and *increasing*.
- ◆ Greatness is *growth*...keep growing, *partaking*!
- ◆ Grace is His gift to move ahead from wherever we are.
  - Let any unloving moments (faux pas=false steps) become an ask for growth...don’t wallow...ask for help.
  - “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” Hebrews 12:6

➤ **He will fight for what He is creating in us!**

↳ Greatness -trust Him when He intervenes and disciplines- he is drawing our attention here to these qualities, increasing our source of greatness...as it is really *His* greatness!

❖ **The Flow of Growth**

- ◆ Inside us first - Hebrews 2:1
- ◆ To our families and household - 1 Timothy 5:4, 1 Peter 3:7
- ◆ To the church - Galatians 6:10
- ◆ To our neighbors - Luke 10:33
- ◆ To the world - 2 Corinthians 2:14

❖ **The Greatness of Growth**

↳ If these qualities are *yours* and *increasing*, they will keep you from being ineffective and provide a rich entrance.

**Endnotes:**

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