

# PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE GLORY OF KNOWING JESUS

Houses of Light Church • September 2-3, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

2 Pet. 1:1

**"Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ."**

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In this second letter, Peter begins by saying who he himself is, who his recipients are, and who Jesus is..
  1. Peter is an **apostle** but first he is a **servant**. Peter continues to demonstrate humility just as he did in the first letter (**1 Pet. 5:1a**) and in this way confirms that he does not want to use his position of authority as an apostle to dominate the saints but to serve them as he learned from his Master (**Mk. 10:45**).
  2. He tells those who address his letter that **they have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours**, that is, the apostles. Our new citizenship among the people chosen by God is due only to the grace of the Father that reaches all the nations of the Earth. This gift of faith that was given to us Gentiles was by sheer grace, we have not earned it; Rather, as the one who receives a prize without having done anything to deserve it, so we were given this faith equally precious as theirs, which means that we believers of this time do not find ourselves at a disadvantage or unable to grow in our faith.
  3. **"God and Savior Jesus Christ"** Peter as someone who knew Jesus up close and who saw Him risen affirms with all certainty the deity and justice of Jesus Christ.

## II. THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST AND GOD IS THE MEANS TO RECEIVE EVERYTHING WE NEED

**v.2-3 "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the KNOWLEDGE of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 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,"**

### A. Three Elements to Consider in These Verses:

1. **GOD'S GOAL:** May we receive **grace, peace and all the things (or resources) we need to live the Christian life**. This includes, in this age our moral and spiritual transformation, and in the age to come resurrection life..
2. **THE SOURCE:** It is the power of God that gives us all these resources. It is not only in our power to produce or manage to live the Christian life (godliness). This does not mean that we are passive because there is a part that corresponds to us. **The Christian life is not just a set of**

doctrines that must be accepted, it is a power that is experienced, first it saves us and then it produces in us love for God and for His will.

3. **THE MEANS THAT GOD ESTABLISHED:** How is this power activated in our lives? The answer is through knowledge. Grace multiplies as we get to know Jesus Christ better and better (v.2) and divine power is given to us through the knowledge of God (v.3). Later Peter affirms *that the knowledge of Jesus allows us to escape the pollutions of the world* (2:20). So what connects God's goal with the source of his power is the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### III. HOW IS THIS KNOWLEDGE GIVEN?

- A. The word "**knowledge**" in 2 Pet. it is '*epignosis*' which is a revelation but a revelation with participation. This makes knowledge an attitude and an activity of a dynamic nature, that is, it implies a disposition and a search on the part of the one who longs to possess it.

**Pr. 2:3-5** "yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

- B. The Greek word for knowledge in general is '*Gnosis*' but here it is preceded by the preposition '*epi*' which means '*towards*' or '*in the direction of*'. '*Epignosis*' is interpreted as a knowledge that is always in movement towards what it wants to know. Diligence is required to grow in knowledge of our Lord and we are not barren in this regard.

**2 Pet. 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."

**Col. 1:10** "so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

- C. '*Epignosis*' was used in antiquity, for example, to talk about the scientific knowledge of music as opposed to the knowledge of the mere amateur. So what Peter can imply here is that the knowledge of Jesus Christ is what we might call "**the capital science of life.**" that brings the grace that we all need and the peace that the human being longs for so much.

**2 Pet. 3:18a** "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..."

- D. '*Epignosis*' It also means "**learning to know**" that is, knowing how to meet someone, where and how to meet him. Knowledge of Christ occurs in a personal relationship with Him, it is not just knowing information about Him. It is knowing Him as one knows someone on a day-to-day basis through frequent interaction.

**Jn. 15:4-5 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."**

- E. It means that this knowledge is something you seek daily as you talk to Jesus, listen to the Holy Spirit, and respond to His direction and love. Peter is saying that Jesus Christ tells us what life is and then enables us to live it properly. Jesus gives us a Christianity that is not an escape from life but a triumphant involvement in our daily lives.

**Rev. 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."**

- F. Growing in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ must be a priority in our lives. What God wants from us is not only to fulfill certain religious tasks but also to know him intimately.

**Os. 6:3 y 6 "Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth... 6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."**

#### **IV. THE PROMISES WE HAVE FOR THE GLORY AND EXCELLENCE OF GOD**

**v.4 "by which [His glory and excellence] 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."**

- A. Christianity, on the one hand, recognizes the human condition realistically, but on the other hand, it tells us that in Christ we can participate in the same divine nature, that is, it does not place limits on the potential to develop a character like that of Christ.

**Eph. 4:13 "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."**

- B. As one of the early fathers of the Church said: "He made himself what we are to make us what he is." In Christ, man has the capacity to participate in the nature of God but he can only become a reality by continuing to know and relate to Jesus Christ.

- C. This verse raises two options in this world:

1. **Sinful desires lead to the corruption that is in the world.** This is the condition of the culture that surrounds us, increasingly perverse and aggressive.
2. **The second option is to participate in the nature of God through the glorious and precious promises of him that are given to us when we know him.** This is our deepest desire and yes it is possible.

- D. **We need to be freed from the power of sin that corrupts and destroys our lives, and to be united with Jesus by knowing him actively.** And God teaches us that this deliverance from sin and likeness to God comes from knowing and trusting in His great and precious promises.

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. **The knowledge of the glory and excellence of God gives us everything we need to live the Christian life, we must know that we are called and included together with the apostles and that the precious and great promises are ours here and now.**
- B. If we continue to saturate our minds and hearts with the glory and excellence of knowing God and Jesus Christ in the Scriptures and in our daily lives, there will come an explosion in Houses of Light of the presence of Jesus, mutual love and compassion for the world.

## VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that you have grown in the knowledge of God? Explain
2. What fruit are you having from the knowledge of God in your daily life? Family, work, ministry, etc.
3. How can you continue to actively grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus?

### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Starting this week, Youth services (HOLY58) will take place every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to bring your youth.
2. Corporate Prayer this Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m.
3. This coming Saturday, September 9, our service will take place at the "Gen Z for Jesus" event at the Angelus Temple from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please register at [housesoflight.org/holy58](http://housesoflight.org/holy58)
4. Men's Retreat September 15-16. Please register at the bookstore or at [housesoflight.org](http://housesoflight.org)
5. Friday September 15 Movie Night with the movie "Mario Bros" at 6:00 p.m. The \$5 donation is to support a training that the House of Prayer team will be having in Dallas, TX in November. We appreciate your support.
6. The Passion For Jesus Conference and Leadership Summit September 28-30 is fast approaching. Register today at [www.pasionporjesus.la](http://www.pasionporjesus.la)