A STUDY OF 2 PETER 1

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Who is the letter written to?				
What does verse 1 teach us about Jesus?				
How can grace and peace be multiplied according to verse 2?				
T or F God has given almost everything we need that pertains to life?				
How are all things given to us that pertain to life and godliness?				
Where does that knowledge come from (2 Tim. 3:16-17)?				
What happens if we neglect this knowledge (Hos. 4:6; Rom. 10: 1-2)?				
How does God call us today (2 Thess. 2:14)?				
GREAT & PRECIOUS PROMISES				
What are two things these precious promises provide?				
What are some of those promises proclaimed by the apostles (Eph. 1:7; 1 Jn. 5:11; Phil. 4:7; Heb.13:5; etc.?				
What are some UNCONDITIONAL promises God has made to us?				
a. Mt. 5:45				
b. Heb. 9:27				
c. Jn. 5:28-29				
d. 2 Cor. 5:10				

What are some CONDITIONAL promises God made?
a. Lk. 13:3
b. Mk. 16:16
c. Rom. 8:28
d. Mt. 6:33
What is important for us to know about God's promises (Tit. 1:1-2)
Why do some think God is slack concerning His promises (2 Pet. 3:9)?
According to James 1:12, what causes one to receive the promise of heaven?
Who is responsible for making sure that we meet God's conditions?
How do God's promises help us to remain faithful?
ESCAPING THE CORRUPTION
According to verse 4, what is one of the key components to the corruption of the world?
What can we do to avoid the lust of the world (Rom. 12:2, 9; Phil. 4:8)?
What is the reward of a pure heart (Mt. 5:8)?
How can we know we have escaped the corruption of the world (Mt. 7:17-20)?
Who do we have to watch out for, and what will happen if we allow them to persuade us (2 Pet. 2:17-22)?
What happened to the Gentiles after they corrupted the image of God (Rom. 1:23-32)?
Why do you think some people desire to be corrupt instead of being pure?
How much corruption should we tolerate in the church?

ADD THESE THINGS TO YOUR FAITH

2 Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

FAITH

How do you define faith?	
What is the source of a Christian's faith? (Rom. 10:17)	
Can we be pleasing to God without faith? (Heb. 11:6)	
Can we be pleasing to God by faith alone? (Jam. 2:14-26) Why?	
Do our works cause us to earn our salvation? (Lk. 17:7-10)	
What did the apostles request of Jesus? (Luke 17:3-5)	
How can we increase our faith?	
What can overthrow our faith? (2 Tim. 2:16-18)	
It is possible to have a misguided faith? (Mt. 15:1-14; Rom. 10. 2-3)	
What are some other examples of misguided faith in the Bible?	
Who is responsible for making sure that your faith is valid? (2 Cor. 13:5)	
What role does our faith have in our baptism? (Col. 2:11-13)	
As Christians, how are we to spiritual walk every day? (2 Cor. 5:7)	
What is the reward of keeping the faith? (2 Tim $4.6-8$)	

VIRTUE 2 Peter 1:5

Virtue is the first of the seven Christian graces we are to add to our faith.

Define virtue in your own words.
Friberg - generally, of a good quality of any kind excellence, goodness, valor;
UBS - moral excellence, goodness; redemptive acts, power (of God)
Louw-Nida - the quality of moral excellence - 'outstanding goodness,
BDAG - uncommon character worthy of praise, excellence of character, exceptional civic virtue
What Old Testament character is a good example of this grace? (Gen. 39:7-20) Why
What do the worldly think about those who have this grace? (1 Pet. 4:3-4)
What is the consequence of being ashamed of this grace? (Lk. 9:26; 12:8-9)
What are the virtuous supposed to think on? (Phil. 4:8-9)
Did you know that the Latin people viewed the word virtue as meaning manliness? They believed tha without virtue, man would be no different than any other animal. Being virtuous requires what great quality (1 Chron. 28:20)?
What are some examples of this quality?
Why should we show the world that virtue is more important than wordiness? (Mt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:9-12
What characteristic must an elder have? (Tit. 1:8)
Write down several lessons we learn from Peter about being a lover of good. (1 Peter 3:10-17)
How does the Book of Proverbs describe a virtuous woman? (Prov. 12:4; 31:10-31)
What it the reward for remaining virtuous? (Rev. 2:10)
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KNOWLEDGE 2 Peter 1:5

Knowledge - comprehension or intellectual grasp of something (BDAG). In other words, a pursuit of deeper understanding of God's Word.

What does the knowledge of God do for us:

b.	
	Rom. 10:17
c.	1 Pet. 1:22-23
d.	Jam. 1:21
e.	Eph. 6:10-17
f.	2 Tim. 2:15
g.	1 Pet. 3:15
h.	What else?
Will C	God accept ignorance as an excuse for disobedience? (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thess. 1:7-8)
	do we learn from John 12:48 that should motivate us to desire a deeper understanding of ure?
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What	does Hosea 4:6-9 teach us about neglecting the knowledge of God?
What	do we learn from: Rom. 10:1-3
What a.	do we learn from:
What a. b.	do we learn from: Rom. 10:1-3
What c a. b.	do we learn from: Rom. 10:1-3 Prov. 1:7

SELF-CONTROL

Thayer: the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites.
BDAG: restraint of one's emotions, impulses, or desires.
Louw-Nida: to exercise complete control over one's desires and actions.
What does Paul teach us about self-control? (1 Cor. 9:24-27)
Read Titus 1:7-8. What are these verses talking about?
Why is it important for this person to have self-control?
Is self-control limited to the eldership? (Gal. 5:22-23)
What was Felix's reaction to Paul's message on self-control? (Acts 24:25)
What does the Book of Proverbs teach us about self-control?
Prov. 25:28
Prov. 16:32
Prov. 23:21
There are many areas in which we must use self-control. Discuss some of these things as mentioned by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:2-5:
What is another area that we sometimes loose self-control? (Lk. 10:38-42)
Using the following verses (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20) explain how and why we should learn self-control?
Why should we use self-control on things that are not sinful? (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23-24; Rom. 14:20-21)

PATIENCE

How do you define patience?		
Friberg: as steadfast adherence to a course of action in spite of difficulties and testings <i>perseverance</i> , <i>endurance</i> , <i>fortitude</i> BDAG: the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, <i>patience</i> , <i>endurance</i> , <i>fortitude</i> , <i>steadfastness</i> , perseverance Thayer: the characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings		
What Bible character is associated with patience? (Jam. 5:11)		
What caused him to be so patient? (Job 19:25-27)		
How can this help us be patient?		
What was the result of impatience for the following men?		
Saul (1 Sam. 13:8-14)		
Esau (Gen. 25:29-34)		
What are some other examples (Biblical or personal) of what impatience has caused?		
What two attributes are required to inherit the promises of God? (Heb. 6:11-12)		
How do we improve our patience?		
Jam. 1:2-4		
Rom. 15:4		
2 Pet. 3:9-15		
Heb. 12:1-2		
Read 2 Tim. 2:24. Discuss the importance of patience.		
How patient are we to be? (1 Pet. 2:20-23)		
Please share what has helped you to gain more patience in your life?		

GODLINESS

How do you define godliness?
Friberg: generally, as a particular manner of life characterized by reverence toward God and respect for the beliefs and
practices related to him. Thayer: reverence, respect; in the Bible everywhere piety toward God.
Is it possible for someone to have the appearance of godliness when in fact they do not? (2 Tim. 3:1-5;
2 Cor. 11:13-15)
Will God be pleased with our worship and the way we live our lives for Him if it does not include
godliness/reverence? (Heb. 12:28)
If we do not add godliness/reverence to our lives, how can we ever take God or what He has taught us
seriously?
What does Proverbs 1:7 teach us about godliness?
what does 1 lovelos 1.7 teach as about godiness:
Read Romans 1:24-32 and discuss the results of not having godliness.
We learn several things about godliness from 1 Timothy 6:3-6. What are they?
How is godliness obtained? (2 pet. 1:3)
What does 1 Timothy 4:7-8 tell us that we are to do, and how do we do it?
Jesus is our greatest example. What does His life teach us about godliness?
Heb. 5:7
Mt. 26:39; Heb. 10:9
Jn. 17:4
After Solomon struggled with worldliness and all that man could offer, what was his final conclusion
in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14?

BROTHERLY LOVE

How do you define brotherly love?		
Brotherly love comes from the Greek word <i>philadelphia which means:</i> Thayer: 1) love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love 2) in the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as		
brethren. Friberg: brotherly love, love for brother or <i>sister</i> ; as a religious technical term in the NT, restricted to love for fellow members of a religious group <i>affection for a fellow believer</i> .		
Why can't we just love God and not worry about our brethren? (1 Jn. 4:20; 3:14-15)		
What does Paul tell us about brotherly love? (Rom. 12:10)		
Why did Jesus say this was important? (Jn. 13:35)		
What does brotherly love promote? (Psalm 133)		
Discuss how Paul describes our unity and bond to one another in the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13-26).		
What happens when brotherly love is not shown in congregation? (Prov. 6:19b)		
How did Barnabas show brotherly love to Saul? (Acts 9:26-28)		
How many today would struggle to show brotherly love to someone with a reputation like Saul?		
What did brotherly love motivate Aquila and Priscilla to do? (Acts 18:24-26)		
What should brotherly love motivate us to do? (Gal. 6:1)		
What did Paul teach the Philippians about brotherly love? (Phil. 2:1-5)		
What did Paul teach the Thessalonians about brotherly love? (1 Thess. 4:9-10)		
What question did Cain ask God? (Gen. 4:9)		
Are we are brother's keeper?		
What are some ways we can help promote brotherly love?		
What are some things that can destroy brotherly love?		
Read the following verses and note how God commands us and encourages us to show brotherly love to one another: Jn. 13:34; Gal. 6:10; Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22.		

LOVE

How do you define love?
Love comes from the Greek word agape:
BDAG - the quality of warm regard for and interest in another, esteem, affection, regard, love
Thayer - affection, good-will, love, benevolence. Of the love of men to men; especially of that love of Christians toward Christians which is enjoined and prompted by their religion.
Christians which is enjoined and prompted by their religion.
What is the source of our love? (1 Jn. 4:8, 19)
What is greatest proof of God's love? (Rom. 5:6-8)
How do we show our love for God? (Jn. 14:15, 23)
What did Jesus say proves our discipleship? (Jn. 13:35)
What do the following verses teach us about <i>agape</i> love:
what do the following verses teach as about agape love.
Mt. 5:43-45
Wit. J.45-45
In 2.16
Jn. 3:16
VI 10 05 05
Lk. 10: 25-37
Rom. 13:8-10
1 Jn. 4:20-21
What love are we forbidden to have? (1 Jn. 2:15-17)
No study on love would be complete without taking a close look at what Paul writes about it in I
Corinthians 13: 1-8. Please take notes from our discussion on these verses.
Which is the greatest: faith, hope, or love? (1 Cor. 13:13)

Love suffers long and is kind: Thayer defines the suffering long as: to be of a long spirit, not to lose heart 1a) to persevere patiently and bravely in enduring misfortunes and troubles 1b) to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others 1b1) to be mild and slow in avenging 1b2) to be longsuffering, slow to anger, slow to punish.

J. Harold Thomas wrote: "Love suffers long because it has a Christian sense of values. It knows that there is no greater tragedy than the loss of a soul and it knows that abandoned souls can only be lost! .., We must not give up. We must not abandon them to be forever lost. Love must suffer long."

Not only does love suffer long it is also kind and it extends good will to all men whether friend or foe (2 Tim. 2:24).

Frank Winters wrote: "Love is the river of life in this world. Among the evergreen trees growing upon its bank is the fruit tree of kindness.

Love does not envy: Love is not compatible with envy. Thayer defines envy as: to burn with zeal 1a) to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger. Envy of others and what they have usually does not turn out well. Envy caused Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery. Saul was blinded by his envy of David's victories, which caused him to want to kill his most successful servant. However, when we are motivated by love, we will not be envious of people, instead we will happy for the success of others.

Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up: Thayer defined parade itself as: to boast one's self 2) a self display, employing rhetorical embellishments in extolling one's self excessively. This is a person that brags about how great he is and tries to make other people accomplishments seem insignificant. Parading oneself is prideful, while love teaches us to be humble. Those motivated by love will never belittle others or minimize their accomplishments or tell others how much more they have done than them (Mt. 6:1). Instead that will the encourage others and serve others so they might glorify God.

Thayer defines puffed us as: **to be puffed up, to bear one's self loftily, be proud.** This phrase describes someone that has inflated their own sense of worth. They think to highly of themselves, which is just the opposite of what love is all about (Rom. 12:3). When we are motivated by love, we will learn not to make ourselves better than others because we are not (Phil. 2:3).

Love does not behave rudely: Those who are rude do not care if what they are saying is offensive. They do not care what kind of example they are being, and they certainly do not care if God is pleased with them. In comparison, those motivated by love are going to live their life in a way where they monitor their actions. They will think before they speak or do something because they are concerned about their conduct, and they want to be the best example they can be.

Love does not seek its own: A person motivated by love will not be selfish or self-centered. This of course does not meant that one should neglect themselves, but simply means that one should be willing to help others and to be concerned about others instead of just focusing on himself (1 Cor. 10: 24, 32-33; Phil. 2:4).

Love is not provoked: Love does not lose its temper, it is not irritable, sour, or bitter. Of course this does not mean that that we cannot be moved by the sight of sin. When Paul was in Athens we read:

Acts 17:16 his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

If Paul had not been moved by their idolatry, he would not have spoke against it. In fact, his love for God and for the souls at Athens caused him to preach the truth to them. While love will not provoke us to lash out at people, love for the lost will provoke us to take a stand for God's truth and uphold without losing our temper (Prov. 16:32; Eph. 4:26-32; Col. 3:8; James 1:19-20).

Love thinks no evil: When one is motivated by love, he will not automatically assume that someone is up to no good. Love is optimistic and will cause us to look for the good in others first.

George H Stephenson wrote: Love things good, but hatred thinks evil. Hatred looks for hidden and evil motives behind even the good which we may do. Hatred causes an individual to misconstrue that we say and give the worst possible meaning to our declarations. Hatred causes one to find bad when we only intended good."

Love will not allow us to believe evil about someone just because someone says so. Love will cause us to continue to deem a person innocent until the facts a brought forth, even then we will still love the person, but not their sin.

Love does not rejoice in iniquity: If we are motivated by love, will not boast or feel happy with someone falls into sin. Sometimes people love it when they see their enemies fall because of sin, but love will not allow us to do this. Instead, we should feel sorry for those who fall in to sin and pray for them. We should even pray for enemies because no matter what they have done to us or others they are still a precious soul that can be saved if they turn to God.

Fred. B. Walker wrote: "Love does not take delight in rejoicing in a man's evil reputations, though it condemns his sinful ways. A Christian can stand up for the truth and show that he is opposed to all forms of iniquity without gloating over a sinner's misfortune."

Love rejoices in the truth: Love will cause us to rejoice every time that righteousness prevails and changes a evil person to God. Every person that repents or is transformed by the Word of God is a victory for the Lord. Just as all the angles rejoice in heaven when a sinner turns to God, so should we.

Love bears all things: Thayer defines this as: to protect or keep by covering, to preserve 2) to cover over with silence 2a) to keep secret 2b) to hide, conceal 2b1) of the errors and faults of others. Those motivated by love are not the kind of people that will reveal secrets or try to destroy the reputation of someone by spreading everything they know about a person. Love will cause them to be silent about the matter unless it is absolutely necessary to tell someone about it. Of course the opposite of this would be those who gossip just to hear and tells something new.

Love believes all things: I do not believe that this saying that we should believe everything anyone tells us, but caries the idea of us having the mindset that people especially our brethren are telling us the truth when they talk to us. As George W. Bailey said, "Love has much grace but no suspicion" Our love should also motivate us to believe in God and what His word teaches.

Love hopes all things: Those who love always hope for the best. If someone falls into to sin, we hope he will repent. If something bad happens to someone, we hope he will be able to recover. Of course, love will continually cause us to hope for eternal life in heaven.

Love endures all things: This is very similar to suffering long. Love will cause us to continue to endure the evil actions of others and the trials in own life because we know that reward of heaven awaits us when we endure. Love will motive us to continue to work for the Lord and do good in spite how much we me suffer at the hands of others.

Love never fails: We learn this best from God because His love for us has never failed. Because of His love, He allows us to have our sins forgiven through His Son. If we can ever learn to have the love at the center of our life, then we to learn that love never fails.

ABOUND LESS YOU BECOME BLIND

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

What will be the result if we abound in these seven graces? (v. 8)
What will be the result if we lack these graces? (v. 9)
Why is it so important that we be fruitful? (Jn. 15:1-11)
How is the fruit we produce a reflection of us? (Mt. 7:17-29)
What can we learn from the parable in Luke 13:6-9?
Will the fruit we produce for the Lord go unnoticed? (1 Cor. 15:58; Mt. 19:29)
What must we do to abound in the Christian graces? (Col. 1:9-10)
What causes some Christians to become spiritual blind? (Mt. 13:22)
Notice what the following verses say about those who do not abound in the seven graces:
Heb. 2:1-3
Heb. 6:4-6
Heb. 10:26-31
2 Pet. 2:20-22

Are you abounding in your faith in Lord? Are you growing and producing fruit, or have you become barren?

Blessed Assurance

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Are we called by God? (1 Cor. 1:9; Jam. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:9)	
How are we called by God? (2 Thess. 2:14)	
What are we to be even more diligent about?	
Since we can make our call and election sure, does this mean we can know if we are saved?	
Notice how the following verses also teach us that we can have blessed assurance (2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Tim. 1:12; Isa. 32:17; Heb. 6:11; 1 Jn. 3:19; 1 Jn. 5:13).	
How can we make our call and election sure? (v. 10)	
What happens when we don't make these Christian graces part of our lives? (v. 10)	
Since we can stumble (lose our salvation), what does that say about the doctrine "once saved always saved"? Also consider: (1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 2:4-5; Heb. 10:26-27; Gal. 5:4)	
Does God help keep us from stumbling? (Jude 1:24)	
How? (1 Cor. 10:13)	
What does Peter say the reward will be for abounding in the Christian graces? (v. 11)	
Thanks to Jesus, notice the following verses that talk about how our faithfulness to God and His Word will cause us to enjoy the beautiful place called heaven: (2 Tim. 2:10-12; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; Rev. 21:1-7; Rev. 2:10).	
Since these Christian graces are vital part of Christianity, what does Peter teach us to do? (2 Pet. 1:12-15)	