

# Granted To Us

2 Peter 1:3-8

“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, 4 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.<sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 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.”

The fall season can be such a hectic time for everyone. Kids are going back to school, routines have to change, and summer events are finishing up just to lead to fall activities. It can be very easy to lose sight of what's truly important in the midst of all the chaos. It is necessary to pause and breathe. In verse 3 of this passage, we see that all things have been given to us through Christ. Rest in that for a moment. All things pertaining to life and godliness is given to us. That's grace. So, when the world seems to be set on fire, and you aren't sure where to find your footing, pause for a second and focus on verses 3-4. Through God's promises, you get the joy of being a partaker in divine nature and you have escaped corruption! What a glorious thing!

This passage of scripture does not stop there, though. In verses 5-8, we are not told to just sit back, but we are called to action. We are told to make every effort. I want to remind you before diving into the idea more, that every effort can't always be 6 chapters of scripture reading, an hour in prayer, and fasting twice a week. In fact, I don't know that my every effort will ever look like that. Sometimes every effort is simply a prayer asking for help. Sometimes it's only reading a verse.

Faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. Each of these characteristics are to be worked on and each complement the others. In order for faith to grow you must focus on protecting it with virtue, but in order for virtue to be displayed you must have knowledge on the things that can harm it. In order for you to gain knowledge, you must be willing to have the self-control to study the word and listen to those who have more knowledge than you. In order to build all of the characteristics you need to be steadfast and rooted in who the Lord has created you to be. From these things will come the characteristic of godliness. To truly look like Christ, you will reflect His love towards those around you.

It takes effort to build each of these characteristics listed in this passage, and, without the increase of these characteristics, we become ineffective and unfruitful. The first time I read through this passage, it felt daunting. Then I remembered the first portion of the passage, and I want to draw your attention back to verse 3. “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”. We have already been given these qualities! While we are to make an effort to increase them, God is faithful to meet us where we are and extend the grace needed to help us grow more and more like Him each day.

-Sarah Wilson