

2 Peter 1:1-21: The Fruit of God's Provision

1:1-2

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours

- We are all equal before Christ. You are on the same level of merit as the Apostle Peter
 - He may be the Apostle Peter, but if you're in Christ, then your faith is on equal standing with his
- Galatians 3:27-28
 - Your moral standing before God has nothing to do with how obedient or disobedient you are, it only has to do with whether or not you're in Christ. And if you're in Christ, then your moral standing before God is completely based on Christ's obedience and cannot be effected in anyway whatsoever by your own obedience or lack thereof.

1:3-4

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness

- God will give us everything we need to obey Him (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Obeying God requires relying on Him for supernatural empowerment (John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:16-17)
 - Talk about what it means practically
 - God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, but we have to make use of what He's given us. We have to choose to use it

1:5-7

For this very reason make every effort

- I want us to notice the structure of the point Peter is trying to make: Because you have been given divine empowerment, you therefore should make every effort to grow
 - Supernatural empowerment doesn't contradict effort

Brotherly love

- Brotherly love is a quality that God values, and He wants Christians to have it for one another
- He wants us to have not just sacrificial love, but also brotherly love
- He wants us to have good relationships and enjoy one another and become close like family
- This makes sense given other things we see in the New Testament about the Church being a family
 - Jesus taught that believers were His true family (Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 10:29-30)

1:8-9

They keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ

- What does he mean by "ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"?
- I think he's talking about someone who doesn't really know God
 - I'm not talking about just knowing about Him, but having a saving relationship with Him
 - Scripture sometimes talks of knowing God in this type of way (John 17:3, 16:2-3; Jeremiah 9:3, 22:16)

1:10-11

Be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election

- False conversions are real, and God warns us to examine ourselves (Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Corinthians 13:5)
 - Is there the fruit of a changed heart? Since we can't have the fruit apart from abiding in Christ, then having the fruit must be evidence that we are in fact in Christ (Matthew 7:15-17)
 - Are we growing in Christlike characteristics?

In this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom

- What does this mean?
- He's not saying these qualities will save you or will earn you an entrance into the kingdom (Romans 11:6)
- I think there's two ways in which these qualities richly provide us an entrance into the eternal kingdom:
- These qualities give evidence to you having a true conversion caused by the Holy Spirit
- These qualities naturally lead to you receiving rewards for your stewardship (2 Corinthians 5:10)

1:12-15

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder

- We need reminders
- Sometimes we get tempted to think that once we've learned something in the Bible, we don't need to hear it preached about anymore, but it doesn't quite work like that
- Reminders aren't only for things you have forgotten; they're also for the sake of keeping you from forgetting. That's why God tells us to meditate on His Word so often (Joshua 1:8)

1:16-18

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths ... *but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty*

- God doesn't require people to have a blind or unreasonable faith in Him
- Throughout the Bible, we see God making room for a faith that is based in **experience**, whether personal experience, or the experiences of others
 - John 11:14-15; 1 Corinthians 2:3-5; Deuteronomy 6:20-25; Joshua 4:5-7; Luke 1:1-3