

Pursuit and Promise, Pt. 2

The God Guarantee

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Review

Change is Possible

Change is Gradual

Change is Promised

Believers are:

Partakers of Divine Power

Partakers of Divine Promises

Partakers of Divine Nature

Through Knowledge & Understanding — Transformation Happens

TODAY

The God Guarantee

Peter's Final Letter

Peter writes this final letter at the end of his life, as an old man with a lot of experience, ups and downs, highs and lows — we must read this epistle through the lens of an aged man who is reminiscing about life, and what he wants to pass on to others!

- **2 Peter 1:13-14**

Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

Anchor Passage:

- **2 Peter 1:5-11**

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

Question — What is it about the 8 things Peter mentions — faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love — that warrants him listing them?

Answer — He is looking back at his own significant life events — and wanting to pass on their power to future generations!

1. Faith

- **Hebrews 11:1**
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- Peter starts at the beginning of his own faith journey... he's been around Jesus, listening, seeing miracles etc. Catching nothing, washing nets, "Launch..."
- **Luke 5:5**
But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net."
- "My effort has produced nothing; I'll believe and act on what you say"

Faith isn't just for salvation, it's the foundation for life!

2. Virtue

moral excellence, bravery

Peter obeys – gets huge catch of fish.

- **Luke 5:8**
When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

Peter immediately recognizes his own lack of virtue, his own sinfulness!

- "If I would have lived more virtuously, I would have made way less mistakes"
- Courage of Heart
Conviction of Spirit
Composure of Mind
Constancy of Purpose

3. Knowledge

Experiential, not merely intellectual

- **2 Peter 1:3**
...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him... everything we need comes through knowledge of God, not ignorance, or osmosis.
- **Hosea 4:6**
Perish from lack of knowledge.
- **Acts 2:14-41**
...read Peter's message of clarity and salvation to confused and perishing, through knowledge, quoting the word he knew, 3,000 get saved!

- **1 Peter 3:15**

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

4. **Self-control**

Peter?

- **Matthew 16:15-23 — Revelation**

- “you are the Christ, you’ll never die, get behind me”

- **Matthew 17:1-5 — Transfiguration**

- Moses, Elijah, Jesus talking, Peter interrupts, hear Him

- **Matthew 26:51 — Arrest**

- cuts of ear of man

- **Matthew 26:69-74 — Courtyard**

- three denials, ending in cussing rage

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Self-control is Spirit enabled!

5. **Perseverance**

Hopeful, patient, continuance

- **Luke 22: 31-32 — Satanic sifting, personal failure**

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

- verbal, violent, theological failures, lack of qualifications etc.

- **Proverbs 24:16**

For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked fall by calamity.

- GET UP, PERSEVERE!!!
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6. **Godliness**

Holiness, piety, reverence

- **1 Peter 1:15-16**

...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." (*Leviticus 11:44*)

- not mean-spirited, self-righteous legalism, but holiness in line with God’s ways
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7. / 8. **Brotherly Kindness**

Brotherly love and affection

“Phileo” Love — Brotherly love and affection. “Phileo” Philadelphia.

“Agapeo” Love — an act of your will without condition on another. God’s love for us.

- amazing story, so insightful, post-resurrection talk between Jesus and Peter...
- **John 21:15-17**
So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"** He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**" He said to him again a second time, "**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"** He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**" He said to him the third time, "**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"** Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "**Do you love Me?"** And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Feed My sheep.**"
- agapeo-phileo; agapeo-phileo; phileo-phileo; Peter had learned humble, self-controlled honesty at this point in his life — it didn't disqualify him with Jesus.

So — when Peter says yes to **brotherly kindness** and affection, he also realizes there is a **higher level of love** to add to our lives — **agape love**, love as an act of your will, regardless of what you get in return from someone else.

Conclusion

Question — *After all this, what's the God Guarantee?*

Verse 8 — if these 8 things are yours and abound...

Verse 10 — if you DO these things...

1. Never be Barren or Unfruitful
2. Never Stumble to Total Failure
3. Abundant Entrance into Heaven

Every bit of this guarantee is well worth whatever price I have to pay to intentionally, diligently, incorporate these 8 things into my life!

Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss, "Faith is not the end of your journey, it's the beginning of your journey."
2. Define "virtue." How is this quality lived out in today's world?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:15. What experiential knowledge do you have that will enable you to answer this question?
4. Talk about self-control being Spirit-enabled. Personal struggles, successes?
5. How does perseverance give you hope, for today and for the future?
6. What is your active part in, "Be holy, for I am holy"?
7. Why is agape love so much harder to live out, than phileo love?
8. Which of these 8 teachings had the most significant impact on you today?

NOTES