

## 2 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup>Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Berean Study Bible

<sup>3</sup>His Divine power has granted us everything we need for life and godliness through the rich knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup>Through these He has granted us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the Divine nature, now that you have escaped the desire for corruption in the world

My own translation

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1

### 2 Peter 1:3-4

What I have. 1:3

What I have is a gift. 3 “has given us”

What I have is from Glory. 3 “by His own glory”

What I gain. 1:4a

I have been given a promise. 4a “His... promises”

I have been made a partaker. 4a “become partakers”

What I lose. 1:4b

I accepted an escape. 4b “escaped the corruption”

I rejected all evil. 4b “caused by evil desires”

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2

### Live your abundant life. 2 Peter 1:3-4

Be thankful for what you’ve got. 1:3

I’ve got everything I’ll need for this life. 3a “everything we need”

I’ve got everything I’ll need for the next. 3b “called us by His own glory”

Be optimistic for what you'll get. 1:4a

I'll get everything God promised. 4a "His precious and magnificent promises"

I'll engage with everything God is. 4a "partakers of the Divine nature"

Be at peace for what will not get you. 1:4b

I have escaped from what is around me. 4b "corruption in the world"

I am evading what is within me. 4b "evil desires"

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3

## **2 Peter 1:3-4**

God lifts us up. 1:3

Our gifts are freely given. 3 "has given us"

But earned by hard work. 3 "through the knowledge"

God lifts us in. 1:4a

God's goodness is lavishly displayed. 4a "His... promises"

And largely beyond comprehension. 4a "become partakers"

God lifts us out. 1:4b

Redemption is broader than we know. 4b "escaped the corruption"

And deeper than we realise. 4b "caused by evil desires"

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4

## **Adopt God's abundance mentality. 2 Peter 1:3-4**

I have everything I need in this world. 1:3

I have everything I need for a quality life. 3a "everything we need for life"

I have everything I need for a spiritual life. 3a "everything we need for... godliness"

I have more than I know from the other world. 1:3a, 4a

I have received gifts from God. 3a "His Divine power has given us"

I have received the word of God. 4a "His precious and magnificent promises"

I have received the person of God. 4a "partakers of the Divine nature"

I have gone just far enough from my inner world. 1:4b

I have escaped from the world. 4b "have escaped... the world"

I am escaping from myself. 4b "caused by evil desires"

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5

## **Do I ever get beyond the basics? 2 Peter 1:3-4**

Yes, I've got the basics. 1:3a

I've got all I need. 3a "has granted us everything we need"

I've got more than I need. 3a "for life and godliness"

How I got the basics. 1:3b

My inward pathway. 3b "through the rich knowledge of Him"

My upward pathway. 3b "by His own glory and excellence"

Now I build on the basics. 1:4a

I build with freedom. 4a "He has granted us"

I build within a framework. 4a "His precious and magnificent promises"

What I build on the basics. 1:4b

I have received inner resources. 4b "become partakers of the Divine nature"

I can reject outer resources. 4b "escaped the desire for corruption"

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6

## **2 Peter 1:3-4**

God's power. 1:3a

God's power grants everything we need for life

God's power grants everything we need for godliness

God's glory. 1:3b

God's glory calls through the rich knowledge of Him

God's glory calls by His own glory and excellence

God's promises. 1:4a

God's promises He has granted to us

God's promises are precious and magnificent

God's nature. 1:4b

God's nature enables us to escape the desire for corruption

God's nature enables us to escape the corruption in the world

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7

## **Have you got it? 2 Peter 1:3-4**

I've got it. 1:3a

I got it from the source. 3a "His Divine power has granted us"

I got it for success. 3a "everything we need for life and godliness"

I get it. 1:3b

I get it deep within. 3b "through the rich knowledge of Him"

I get it from above. 3b "Him who called us by His own glory and excellence"

He gives it. 1:4a

I've got God's gifts. 4a "He has granted us"

I've got God's guarantees. 4a "His precious and magnificent promises"

He gives more than it. 1:4b

I share it with others. 4b "you may become partakers"

I share it with God. 4b "partakers of the Divine nature"

Do you get it? 1:4c

It is into the new. 4c "you have escaped the desire"

It is out of the old. 4c "the desire for corruption in the world"

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### **Other possible titles**

Promises with a purpose

The power of a promise

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### **A few favourite promises**

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:31-33

Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matthew 7:9-11

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28-29

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:6-9

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with His hand. Psalm 37:23-24

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. Malachi 3:10

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### Key word commentary

<sup>3</sup>His Divine power has **granted** us

δεωρημένης is a verb, a perfect middle or passive participle, a genitive feminine singular, of the verb δωρέομαι [Strong's 1433]. The word comes from the more common word, of 416 occurrences, δίδωμι [Strong's 1325] meaning ‘to give’.

This word, δωρέομαι, means, 'to give, to present, grant, bestow'. This word occurs only 3 times in the Greek New Testament, including twice in 2 Peter. Those occurrences are:

When Pilate had confirmed the death of Jesus with the centurion, he **granted** the body to Joseph of Arimathea. Mark 15:45

His Divine power has **granted** us everything we need for life and godliness... 2 Peter 1:3

He has **granted** us His precious and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4

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<sup>3</sup>...through the **rich knowledge** of Him

There are 16 occurrences of the word 'knowledge' in English in 1 & 2 Peter, but 4 different words in the original Greek.

οἶδα, 5 occurrences in 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 1:18, 5:9, 2 Peter 1:12, 1:14, 2:9

γινῶσις, 6 occurrences in 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 3:7, 2 Peter 1:5, 1:6, 1:20, 3:3, 3:18

ἐπίγνωσις, 4 occurrences in 1 & 2 Peter

2 Peter 1:2, 1:3, 1:8, 2:20

ἄγνοια, 1 occurrence in 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 1:14

The word used in this verse is ἐπιγνώσεως a genitive feminine singular noun form of the noun ἐπίγνωσις [Strong's 1922]. This word occurs 20 times in the Greek New Testament including 4 times (20% of all uses) in 2 Peter. This word is a compound word consisting of the prefix preposition ἐπί [Strong's 1909] which intensifies γνῶσις [Strong's 1108] a noun meaning, 'knowledge gleaned from first-hand personal experience'.

Therefore, ἐπιγνώσεως means an intimate knowledge grown through a deeper, richer, relationship.

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<sup>4</sup>... now that you have **escaped** the desire for corruption in the world

ἀποφεύγω [Strong's 668] is a compound verb, consisting of the prefix preposition ἀπό [Strong's 575] meaning, 'away from'; plus the verb φεύγω [Strong's 5343] meaning, 'escape, flee, run away'.

Hence, this word, ἀποφεύγω means, 'flee away from, escape by flight' indicating a deliberate disconnection and separation by distance.

This word occurs only 3 times in Scripture, and is found only in 2 Peter. Those occurrences:

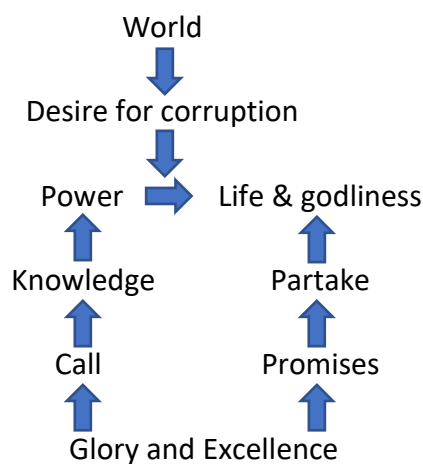
Through these He has granted us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the Divine nature, now that you have **escaped** the desire for corruption in the world 2 Peter 1:4, BSB

With lofty but empty words, they appeal to the sensual passions of the flesh and entice those who are just **escaping** from others who live in error. 2 Peter 2:18

If indeed they have **escaped** the corruption of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, only to be entangled and overcome by it again, their final condition is worse than it was at first. 2 Peter 2:20, BSB

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### Mind map of 2 Peter 1:3-4



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### Music and songs

Songs about God's call, v3b

A better life

Across the lands... Your cry of love rings out, Ot 29

The Potter's hand, 857

Songs about God's power or glory, v3b

How excellent Your name is, Ot 99

O the mercy of God... be all glory, honour and praise (Bullock)

The power and the glory of Your name, Ot 24

Songs about God's promises, v4a

I believe in Jesus, Ot 60

My heart is filled with thankfulness, Ot 97

Standing on the promises, H

Songs about partaking or partnership with God, v4b

Change my heart O God, 482

Highest praise

Salt and light, Ot 113

Teach my Thy way, H

The Potter's hand... take me, hold me, use me, fill me, 857

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### **Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion**

1. Is your glass half-full, or half-empty? How full is your glass, most of the time?
  2. How much overlap is there between a) a life that is abundant, and b) a life that is happy, or prosperous, or successful, or famous, or easy? How can we define an abundant life?
  3. From 2 Peter 1:3-4, the sermon suggested the way to an abundant life include being: thankful, optimistic, and at peace with what I don't have. In what ways do each of these add to our abundance?
  4. "We have everything we need" (v3a). Since we already have everything, why do we still need to pray, go to worship, fellowship with believers, etc.?
  5. Everything we need is available "through the rich knowledge of Him who called us" (v3b). List the top five ways of gaining "rich knowledge".
  6. God's "glory and excellence" (3b) are the source of "His precious and magnificent promises" (4a) which results in us being "partakers of the Divine nature (4b). What is meant by each of those three steps; and why are they in that sequence?
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