

## **All We Need – 2 Peter 1:1-11**

**By Terry McCall**

Life can be tough as the following story illustrates. This was supposedly a follow-up letter written to an insurance company.

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient. I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope . . .

We all like to make progress in life whether it is building radio towers, growing a garden or just paying our bills. But even the most common tasks of life have their challenges. God seemingly has built challenges into the fabric of life. Jesus assured his disciples there is no need worrying about tomorrow, for tomorrow has enough troubles of its own. James goes so far as tell his readers to rejoice when you face various trials for they promote faith development. It seems safe to say that trials are inevitable. Today I would like us to consider “to what extent are we prepared for the trials and challenges of life?” How does being Christian help when we are faced with opposition and even things that would threaten the spiritual dimension of our life.

The opposition we face is not a colliding with falling barrels but colliding with a fallen world system. A fallen world characterized by doubt, unbelief, hostility, uncertainty, godlessness, confusion, falsehood, man acting more like animal than the Creator in whose image he was made. You cannot live on planet earth without being confronted with these challenges. You will eventually be tempted to question your faith. You will eventually be tempted to express yourself in hostile ways, you will eventually be humbled by your lack of spiritual insight, you will eventually be tempted to join the ranks of the godless, you will eventually question your purpose for being here, you will eventually face deception and falsehood, you will inevitably identify with Paul's struggle where he said "For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do".

But here is where Peter would encourage us. He would say that in spite of the inevitability and eventuality of these challenges – You have all you need to face the opposition we encounter.

**I have entitled today's sermon "...everything we need..."** and subtitled it

**The Christian's Portfolio:** An inventory of the spiritual assets of the believer according to 2 Peter 1: 1-11

When I use the term portfolio this morning it is a word which refers to a list of an investor's securities or assets.

This is the 4th of July weekend. If a family member suggest you all go camping, your family will consider what is necessary for a camping trip. Do we have a tent, do we have sleeping bags, do we have the equipment required to survive in a camping environment. You will in essence be considering your camping assets. To buy a car or home you need adequate financial assets. Today we are considering the spiritual assets we have as Christians based on 11 verses from the New Testament. This is, obviously, not an exhaustive list of our spiritual assets. You will be encouraged. You should leave here with a sense of spiritual security.

We begin by looking at the first seven verses.

2 Peter 1: 1-7

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

I began by mentioning that we face many spiritual challenges. Challenges like:

- ◇doubt and unbelief
- ◇littleness and insignificance
- ◇hostility
- ◇uncertainty
- ◇godlessness

- ◇confusion
- ◇deception
- ◇worldly tendencies

Peter, as he writes to believers, notes several great assets that have been given to us who belong to Christ. These assets, which we possess because of our union with Christ, counter those challenges I listed initially. Here are the assets I believe we can claim from these seven verses and how they correspond to the spiritual challenges we face in the world.

- ◇faith counters doubt and unbelief
- ◇grace counters littleness and insignificance
- ◇peace counters hostility
- ◇knowledge counters uncertainty
- ◇everything for godliness counters godlessness
- ◇a calling counters confusion
- ◇falsehoods sure promises counters deception
- ◇divine nature tendencies counters worldly tendencies

We want to briefly look at each of these assets. Where I have found significant quotes related to them I use them for often a well chosen quote speaks volumes. We begin with faith

Doubt / unbelief

Are countered by the asset **FAITH**

The asset **FAITH**

◇To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ **have received a faith** as precious as ours -vs. 1

◇Little faith will bring your soul to heaven; great faith will bring heaven to your soul. -*Spurgeon*

◇Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us. – *Forsyth*

Virginia's delegate to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia who was famous for "give me liberty or give me death" said this at the end of his life:

◇I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich, and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed. --*Patrick Henry*

Faith is the response that connects us with the salvation of God. By faith we are brought into a right relationship with our Maker and by that same faith we have access to His presence. There is nothing in the entire universe more valuable than your faith.

If you have faith you have a great asset.

Our sense of Littleness and Insignificance  
Is countered by the asset **GRACE**

### The asset **GRACE**

◇ Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord - vs 2

◇ The essence of the doctrine of grace is that God is for us. What is more, he is for us who in ourselves are against Him. More still, he is not for us merely in a general attitude, but has effectively acted toward us. Grace is summed up in the name Jesus Christ. -*T.H.L. Parker*

◇ I have never known the time when I have felt for a moment free from a sense of unworthiness, or free from a consciousness of imperfection and of a sinful nature, but since I have come to understand that I am accepted of God on the ground of Christ's righteousness and not my own, and therefore my standing is in Him and His righteousness and not my own, I have ceased even to question the fact of my present salvation. -*Stebbins*

Hostility

Is countered by the asset **PEACE**

### The asset **PEACE**

◇ Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord - vs 2

◇ Peace is such a precious jewel that I would give up anything for it but truth. -*Henry*

◇ If you see a man unterrified in the midst of dangers, untouched by desires, happy in adversity, peaceful amid the storm, will you not say: a divine power has descended upon that man? -*Seneca*

◇ Peace is a condition of freedom from strife whether internal or external. Security from outward enemies, as well as calm of heart for those trustin God. Peace is so pleasing to the Lord that the godly are enjoined to seek it diligently -*Charles L. Feinberg*

◇ "... seek peace and pursue it." -*Ps. 34: 14*

Uncertainty

Is countered by the asset **KNOWLEDGE**

### The asset **KNOWLEDGE**

◇ Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord - vs 2

◇ We comprehend God because God is comprehensible. We are able to communicate with God because God is a communicating Being, making known who He is, what His purposes are, and what His will for each of us is. Uncertainty diminishes as our knowledge of the Lord increases. -*Me*

◇ The biblical terms associated with knowing God, like trusting, acknowledging, and believing in God as Lord have a covenantal context. As a result, knowledge of God involves not simply propositions about God, but encountering and embracing God as Lord, so that God becomes the center of our desires, affection, and knowledge. -*Timothy Phillips*

Godlessness

Is countered by the asset of **HAVING ALL WE NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS**

**The asset *EVERYTHING***  
*we need for life and godliness*

◇ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. - vs3

◇ Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. - *1 Timothy 3:16*

◇ Godliness cannot be separated from Jesus. When we by faith embrace the Lord, His life becomes our life, we no longer live but Christ lives in us. His divine power becomes present through the Holy Spirit in us. Life, as God intended it, is realized in us. Godliness, the state of being which was the original intension of creating man in the likeness and image of God, is an inevitable result of having Christ at the center of the human being.

Confusion

Is countered by the asset **CALLING**

**The asset *CALLING***

◇ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. - vs3

◇ The biblical idea of God's calling is of God summoning men by His word, and laying hold of them by His power, to play a part and enjoy the benefits of His gracious redemptive purposes. - *J.I. Packer*

◇ Having been called of God, we enter into His purposes. We become aware of His ways. His actions effect our actions. His heart becomes an influence on our hearts. His worldview becomes our worldview. To be called of God and to be placed in the fellowship of the saints is to have our doubts about our place in the universe dispelled. We have been called to know how great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.

Deception and Falsehoods

Are countered by the asset **PROMISES**

**The asset *PROMISES***

◇ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises -vs4

◇ As you read God's promises over, one after the other, you say to yourselves, "This is my checkbook. I can take out the promises as I want them, sign them by faith, present them at the great Bank of Grace, and come away enriched with present help in time of need." That is the way to use God's promises. -*Spurgeon*

◇ In a day and age where vowels are broken, faithfulness is no longer the rule but the exception, and trust is just plain hard to find the believer rests confidently in the promises of an unchanging God, Who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

- ◇Others may and will fail us but God and His promises remain faithful and true.
- ◇How many are there who would exchange a million dollars for a promise made and kept ?

Worldly tendencies *((this is distinguished from godlessness in that worldliness isn't necessarily wicked deeds but deeds and attitudes which convey a love for the things of this physical world – seeking self satisfaction / pleasures))*

Are countered by the asset **DIVINE NATURE** ((which directs our affections heavenward))

The asset ***PARTICIPATION in the DIVINE NATURE***

- ◇... he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature -vs 4
- ◇Through our humanness and connection to fallen Adam we have become partakers of an earthly, sensuous, and rebellious nature. Through our rebirth and our connection to the second Adam, Jesus, we become partakers of a heavenly and divine nature.

◇The destructive principle we mentioned at the beginning, the destructive principle at work in our fallenness, this destructive principle is to be rooted out; and love to God and man is to be implanted in its place. Every Christian is equipped for this. As we claim the promises of God our hearts are purified; and just as sin reigned unto death, even so shall grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life.

***It is one thing to possess these assets, it is another thing to utilize them. To have camping equipment and never use it seems to some extent a waste. To have spiritual assets and neglect them seems not only wasteful but hazardous. The opposition we face is real. There is an adversary who is (hell) bent on undermining your spiritual progress. He has a spiritual agenda of his own. Your success threatens his success. He delights in your idleness. He delights in your spiritual indifference. But he cannot change the fact that you have everything you need for life and godliness. The thrust of this message must not lie in the possessing of spiritual assets but in the using of spiritual assets. And so we must look at how to put them into practice.***

## **Using these assets now**

◇**Faith** - Move about with a confidence that God is for you. Face your decisions with an assurance that as you seek God's will His will will be mysteriously revealed. Push beyond your comfort zone believing that there are adventures to be had as you offer yourself up to service in the kingdom of God.

◇**Grace** - Move about humbled by the unmerited favor God has shown and continues to show you.

◇Romans 5:1 ...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

◇Grace is a communicable attribute of God which means He shares it with us so that it can be an attribute of our own, characterizing who we are: "gracious" ???

◇**Peace** - Move about in as one who has been reconciled to God. Now that you have peace with God, live at peace with others; "for blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God"

◇In a world characterized by conflict and with so many in turmoil, you can rest assured that “God will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in Him.”

◇**Knowledge** – Move about as one who has gained understanding from your encounter with the Lord. We are not to live as though we were clueless, neither are we to be arrogant with the understanding we have gained. Knowledge should always be exercised in conjunction with the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of knowledge.

◇**Everything we need for life and godliness** – Move about confident that you are sufficiently equipped for anything and everything that may come your way. Not that you as an individual are capable of facing any challenge, but realizing that you belong to a community and through that fellowship you find undergirding equal to the challenges of life and the demands for godliness.

◇**Your calling** – Move about with this assurance – that just as any one of the original disciples received the call from Jesus and gave themselves to following Him – so too have you. You have personally been called to find your purpose in life as you walk with the Lord and allow His life to flow through you as life flows from the vine to the branches for If you remain in Him and He in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Him you can do nothing.

◇**Sure Promises** – Move about with the conviction that every promise God has made to the believer is as good as done. Make it one of your major goals in your Christian life to familiarize yourself with the promises of God and to shape your life around them. Rejoice in the hope that the promises inspire, allow that hope to shine forth from your being, and be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have

◇**Divine nature participation** – Move about keeping this connection in mind - to the extent that you claim the promises of God you also participate in His divine nature. Paul reminded the Corinthians of the Lord’s promises: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." and “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." then Paul says “Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”

Peter of course doesn’t talk in terms of portfolios or assets, that just me using an analogy to help us grasp these great truths. But continuing with this analogy we might say that Peter also gives us instruction how to build up our portfolio. If increasing your assets in the physical realm is beneficial, how much more, should we as Christians, we desirous of increasing your spiritual assets?

According to Peter the process is this simple:

Building up your portfolio

◇Add to your faith (that first asset)

–goodness

–knowledge

–self-control

–perseverance

- godliness
- brotherly kindness
- love

There is no need to elaborate here – You know what goodness looks like and even an elementary child can be encouraged to increase the goodness in her life.

You know what self-control looks like.

You know what love looks like.

It really is as simple as “Just Do It!”

We close by noting the benefits of a growing portfolio

### **The benefit of a growing portfolio**

◇8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is short-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The benefits listed

◇Effectiveness and productivity in your knowledge of Christ

–8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

◇Making sure your calling and election

–10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure

◇You will never fall

–For if you do these **things**, (the adding to your faith the seven virtues listed) you will never fall

◇You will receive a rich welcome home.

–and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

◇If, when I was 3 years old, I had invested \$1000.00 in Phillip Morris; I would have had \$4,626,402.00 two years ago. But I was too preoccupied with playing with wooden blocks

◇When it comes to financial assets my portfolio would impress very few people. It’s one of the down sides of living like a sojourner. Our home in Strasburg makes our 15th dwelling since marriage.

◇But I, with most of you, would like to think that our heavenly portfolios more than compensates for what we lack in our earthly portfolios.

I began this morning by telling a story about a guy who had initially explained his accident as a result of poor planning. There are many Christians who are living ineffective and unproductive lives for that same reason – poor planning.

Christianity is an endeavor. It requires energy. It requires deliberateness. Goodness doesn’t add itself to faith, you are called to add it.

Knowledge doesn't add itself to goodness, you are called to add it.  
Participation in the divine nature doesn't just happen, it happens as we claim the promises of God. The point is we must plan to advance in our faith. We must be deliberate about growing in the Lord

We all have sufficient spiritual assets to do just that

- ◇We all have sufficient spiritual assets as believers to be storing up great treasures in heaven.
- ◇We all have sufficient spiritual assets to counter the challenges and threats that face us in this world.
- ◇We all have **all we need** for life and godliness
- ◇May God bless us as we invest for eternity