

Be Restored in '24: Pursue

2 Peter 1:1-11

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2 Peter 1:1-11 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 a godly life 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, having escaped 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, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 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 whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ the best rather than the worst

_____ of spiritual excellence: Jesus' power enables in us everything we need for being truly alive with genuine devotion to God. It has been bestowed upon us by the knowledge of Christ coming into his own glory and the powerful light of his goodness! 2 Peter 1:3 (JOT)

_____: Jesus has given to us precious and great promises. Through these promises we have become partners with God, making good our escape from the worst in life, the corrosive and deteriorating lusts of the world around us! 2 Peter 1:4 (JOT)

2. _____ the pursuit of the best

_____ wait: Don't waste a minute, immediately start to make every effort to sacrificially put your faith into practice with the same goodness that you see in Jesus Christ! This goodness will build your understanding of faith! 2 Peter 1:5 (JOT)

_____: This understanding will grow into the fruit of mastering your inward drives! This process will teach you perseverance! Don't give up! Staying with it will build devotion to God's desire. This kind of devotion to God will empower loving each other as brothers and sisters! Truly loving each other will empower God's love in you! 2 Peter 1:5-7 (JOT)

_____ to see what matters: These things are in overwhelming supply when you put knowing our Lord, Jesus Christ in charge of your life. It prevents us from being lazy and unfruitful. If these things are not present then blindness and nearsightedness will fill our lives, forgetting how God has cleansed us from our past sins. 2 Peter 1:8-9 (JOT)

3. _____ the strength to diligently pursue

_____ to God's invitation: So, friends, confirm God's invitation to you, his choice of you. Don't put it off; do it now. Do this, and you'll have your life on a firm footing, the streets paved and the way wide open into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:10-11 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

What are you waiting for? Is there any urgency to your faith? Be restored in '24 through putting your faith into practice! Renew your vision for being a disciple of Jesus Christ, then you will see what God can do in your life. It will help you to overcome the blind spots and remember what God has done for you! How will you respond to God's invitation? This week read 1 John 1 and 2 Peter 1. Allow the Holy Spirit to challenge you to a deeper walk with Christ.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message.