



## Lesson 46 – Steadfast Unto the End

Based on the Second Epistle of Peter

1) To Whom is 2 Peter addressed?

**2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained \_\_\_\_\_ precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

In the second letter addressed by Peter to those who had obtained “*like precious faith*” with himself, the apostle sets forth the divine plan for the development of Christian character.

2) What does he wish to convey?

**2 Peter 1:2-4** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious \_\_\_\_\_: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in the world through lust.

**2 Peter 1:5-8** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith \_\_\_\_\_; and to virtue \_\_\_\_\_; And to knowledge \_\_\_\_\_; and to temperance \_\_\_\_\_; and to patience \_\_\_\_\_; And to godliness brotherly \_\_\_\_\_; and to brotherly kindness \_\_\_\_\_. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

These words are full of instruction and strike the keynote of victory. The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ’s ideal for us. Thus, He is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

3) What had he said in his first epistle?

**1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through \_\_\_\_\_ unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

It is the glory of God to give His virtue to His children. He desires to see men and women reaching the highest standard; and when by faith they lay hold of the power of Christ, when they plead His unfailing promises, and claim them as their own, when with an importunity that will not be denied they seek for the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be made complete in Him.

4) What does God give us to help us succeed?

**2 Peter 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us \_\_\_\_\_ that pertain unto life and godliness...

Having received the faith of the gospel, the next work of the believer is to add to his character virtue and thus cleanse the heart and prepare the mind for the reception of the knowledge of God. This knowledge is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation; and it is this alone that can make one like God in character.



5) What was Jesus' prayer for us all?

**John 17:3** And this is life eternal, that they might \_\_\_\_\_ thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

6) What did Jeremiah prophesy?

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his \_\_\_\_\_, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I \_\_\_\_\_, saith the LORD.

None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ, provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Saviour showed that through co-operation with Divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we, too, may obtain complete victory.

7) How does Peter describe us if we don't have faith, virtue, knowledge...?

**2 Peter 1:9** But he that lacketh these things is \_\_\_\_\_, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

The apostle Peter had had a long experience in the things of God. His faith in God's power to save had strengthened with the years, until he had proved beyond question that there is no possibility of failure before the one who, advancing by faith, ascends round by round, ever upward and onward, to the topmost round of the ladder that reaches even to the portals of heaven.

8) What did he exhort us to do?

**2 Peter 1:10-11** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election \_\_\_\_\_: for if ye do these things, ye shall \_\_\_\_\_ fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

For many years Peter had been urging upon the believers the necessity of a constant growth in grace and in a knowledge of the truth; and now, knowing that soon he would be called to suffer martyrdom for his faith, he once more drew attention to the precious privileges within the reach of every believer.

9) How long was Peter going to share the Gospel?

**2 Peter 1:13-15** Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this \_\_\_\_\_, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath \_\_\_\_\_ me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my \_\_\_\_\_ to have these things always in remembrance.

10) Can we trust the Word of God?

**2 Peter 1:16** For we have not followed cunningly devised \_\_\_\_\_, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were \_\_\_\_\_ of his majesty.



11) Whom did they hear from?

**2 Peter 1:17-18** For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a \_\_\_\_\_ to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we \_\_\_\_\_, when we were with him in the holy mount.

12) What else can we have to anchor our faith in the Word?

**2 Peter 1:19-21** We have also a more sure word of \_\_\_\_\_; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any \_\_\_\_\_ interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Ghost.

13) If there are real prophecies, what should we beware of?

**2 Peter 2:1-2** But there were \_\_\_\_\_ prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And \_\_\_\_\_ shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

14) How does Peter describe the false prophets?

**2 Peter 2:17** These are \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

15) What should we beware of in the last days?

**2 Peter 3:3** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days \_\_\_\_\_, walking after their own lusts,

16) How did Paul describe it?

**1 Thessalonians 5:3** For when they shall say, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Not all, however, would be ensnared by the enemy's devices. As the end of all things earthly should approach, there would be faithful ones able to discern the signs of the times. While a large number of professing believers would deny their faith by their works, there would be a remnant who would endure to the end.

17) What promise of Christ stayed alive in Peter's heart?

**John 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and \_\_\_\_\_ you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

18) Is God faithful?

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not \_\_\_\_\_ concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

19) How will the LORD return?

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.



**20) Knowing this, how should we act?**

**2 Peter 3:11-12** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

**2 Peter 3:14** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be \_\_\_\_\_ that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

**2 Peter 3:17-18** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, \_\_\_\_\_ lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But \_\_\_\_\_ in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

In the providence of God, Peter was permitted to close his ministry in Rome, where his imprisonment was ordered by the emperor Nero about the time of Paul's final arrest. Thus, the two veteran apostles, who for many years had been widely separated in their labors, were to bear their last witness for Christ in the world's metropolis, and upon its soil to shed their blood as the seed of a vast harvest of saints and martyrs.

**21) Looking to the future, what had Christ said about Peter?**

**John 21:18** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ forth thy \_\_\_\_\_, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

Thus, Jesus had made known to the disciple the very manner of his death and even foretold the stretching of his hands upon the cross.

Peter, as a Jew and a foreigner, was condemned to be scourged and crucified. In prospect of this fearful death, the apostle remembered his great sin in denying Jesus in the hour of His trial. Once so unready to acknowledge the cross, he now counted it a joy to yield up his life for the gospel, feeling only that, for him who had denied his Lord, to die in the same manner as his Master died was too great an honor. Peter had sincerely repented of that sin and had been forgiven by Christ, as is shown by the high commission given him to feed the sheep and lambs of the flock. But he could never forgive himself. Not even the thought of the agonies of the last terrible scene could lessen the bitterness of his sorrow and repentance. As a last favor he entreated his executioners that he might be nailed to the cross with his head downward. The request was granted, and in this manner died the great Apostle Peter.

**Can you see Peter's devotion to Christ?**

**Would you like to be positive in impossible times?**

**When is the time to humble yourself?**