Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #28: Relationship With Jesus Creates New Potential

2 Peter 1:1-11

*Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have obtained likeprecious faith (faith of equal standing) with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

***2****Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,****3****as His divine power has given (granted) to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (called us to his own glory and excellence),****4****by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

***5****But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,****6****to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,****7****to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.****8****For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.****9****For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

***10****Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;****11****for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

***2Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,***

**Grace** simply defined as "unmerited favor". In the original language the writers of the NT at the beginning and end of their epistles would express their deepest desire for their readers to experience the favor (grace) of God. In this sense.........to be committed or commended to the protecting and helping favor of God.

God's grace.

**Peace** in the original language used in this verse addresses a conception distinctly peculiar to Christianity, the tranquil state of the soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.

The Lord who is the author and promoter of peace.

John 14:25-27 ESV

***25****“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.****26****But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.****27Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***

I must confess that the idea or concept of peace has been much easier for me to comprehend than the concept of grace.

There are things or experiences in this life that help me to grasp an idea of this type of peace.

Grace is a bit more challenging for me to grasp because life is not usually filled with practical examples of grace.

I understand working, performing, earning, or doing good things to impress. It's how we make a team. It's how you win competitions. It's how you succeed in business.

As we discussed last week, this divine allotment has nothing to do with my works or efforts or good deeds. It is all about the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ through the favor of Father God.

It is not a faith that we can earn by being good or doing good things to impress God. This is difficult for most of us to understand.

End of verse 2..........***be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,***

Not just grace and peace, but grace and peace multiplied on a personal level in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Knowledge in this sentence has to do with the true knowledge of Christ's nature, dignity, and benefits. I would use the term, experiential understanding. This is a personal knowledge not an academic knowledge.

Verse 3 is key to helping us get our minds around these truths.

*as His divine power has given (granted) to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (called us to his own glory and excellence),*

**I cannot read this verse then consider the scope of these first verses without thinking of the word "potential".**

Peter is trying to help us understand what he has experienced on the most personal level.

Christ was the living example of grace, truth, and love.

Peter was a normal, hard working fisherman. He was stubborn, independent, and a natural leader.

He might have thought that he had a ton of natural potential.

He was obviously pursuing his human potential as a son, brother, husband, and businessman.

He met Jesus and had his world turned upside down.

He was not a natural at this new upside down heavenly kingdom.

He struggled to grasp Jesus' teachings but he did not give up or walk away.

**He then began to realize that this unearned favor or grace paved the way for a faith that created new potential in his life. Spiritual potential that energized his human potential.**

**Jesus saw greater potential in Peter than Peter could see in himself.**

Let me go back to something that I mentioned earlier. I have struggled to find a human example of grace. Then it hit me that proper, positive parenting is supposed to be one of the few human experiences to understand grace.

I am a man so I will speak to my own struggles as a man learning grace.

A proper, loving father to son or daughter relationship is an example of grace. Favor should be naturally shown to a daughter(s) or son(s).

I say proper, loving father because so many children in our world do not have a proper, loving father in their lives.

It has taken Lori and me years upon years to remove the poor image of father from our view in order to gaze upon the proper, loving Heavenly Father that God is for us.

Three words................grace..........peace...........potential

I want to specifically talk about fathers to sons to see if we can't get a glimpse of Peter's proclamation of truth.

***Begin to roll the pictures of fathers with their son(s)***

Grace..........peace...........potential

Fathers are supposed to pass along instruction, direction, training, and wisdom to their sons.

Fathers may seem hard and demanding at times but I know from personal experience that greater grace is extended more than we stop to consider.

A proper, loving father does not usually give his son what he actually deserves at each stage of the maturity process. Why not? We learn that perfectionism crushes a son so all of us learn to extend grace in some shape or fashion.

Here is the challenge of a son compared to his father..............the view.

A son typically views himself through his own eyes or his own perspective of himself.

A father typically views his son through more mature eyes that are not focused on not only who he is at the moment but what he can become in the future.

A proper, loving father sees his son through the eyes of potential.

Peter is sharing with us that because of the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus, we have a new potential but we have to walk in it.

Potential is useless unless it is activated.

***Rotate the two pictures of Jr and Sr during the motocross years.***

Overview of Tim Jr racing motocross. He could have easily finished top 5 each race. Very talented, very athletic, and very intelligent.

At times, I came across as hard and very stern in my communication. I was trying desperately to figure out how to motive him to activate or have him walk in his potential. Or in this case to ride/race in his potential.

He was 16 years old in the pictures and we were at the track in Seaford, Delaware.

Finally, I realized that he was at a point where he had to make choices for himself. I wanted the best for him, I continued to invest in him, and I did my best to extend grace because he was my son and I loved him deeply. I was proud of him, regardless.

14 years later I got to see my son walk in his potential. He pushed himself to accomplish things that I knew he was always capable of attaining. He graduated Marine Corp OCS winter session at Quantico. He had pushed through the ice and frozen water the last two weeks with a femoral neck fracture. For the first time, on a new level, he got a glimpse of his potential.

Father God has made some incredible things available to us through the righteousness of His Son, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

God has extended grace to us.

Do you see yourself through your limited perspective or do you see yourself through the Father's perspective of you? He sees your new potential because of His power that is available to you through the work of His Son by the Holy Spirit.

Three quick observations about why you are not stepping into the potential that you have in Christ Jesus our God:

* **Don't understand**
* **Not ready**
* **Addicted to sin**

Peter learning to walk in the potential of Christ's power created a new purpose and a new passion for his life.

He is sharing these secrets with us.

Will we learn from Peter and trust what Father God says about us?