Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #29: New Potential: Provision & Power

2 Peter 1:1-4 NKJV

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

*To those who have obtained likeprecious faith (a 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,*

***3as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness****, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (to his own glory and excellence)****4by 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. (because of sinful desire)*

Last lesson we discussed the new potential that is available to us because of belief in the righteousness of Christ on our behalf.

We have a new potential that is available to us through the experiential knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Let me ask you a question.............

In your mind, does an incredibly exciting, full life and godliness go hand in hand?

Do you envision an energized fun life as you walk personally with God?

This was my struggle as a young man. My answer back then would have been totally different than my answer now.

This is a deception, misrepresentation, or lie that the defeated forces try to whisper in our ears or place in our minds.

***"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness"***

***"by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises,"***

***"partakers of the divine nature"***

There is so much mind boggling truth in these verses. I know it can be hard to believe but I am proclaiming that we must believe what Peter is relaying to us from his own personal experience with the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Faith is not the absence of doubt or fear but rather the reality of acting on what God says about Himself as well as what He wants for us based on what He has already done for us.**

Pause..............wait..................reread slowly

***"having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (because of sinful desire)"***

Corruption meaning moral decay

Desire, craving, or longing; especially a desire for what is forbidden

We can escape or flee the impact of this world on our lives.

Not by removing ourselves or physically running away from people and society but by being radically changed in our hearts and minds by the power of God.

We have been and we are talking about "Living Hope".

Do you want this?

Do you want to experience this new potential by the power of God in your life?

If so, then how do we do this?

Glad you asked.

I am simply trying to take a simple analogy that might help us understand some of the basics that we are discussing this morning. Several ideas for analogies emerged this week in group study such as an investment account, a library, or a mechanics tool box.

What I want us to consider a household food pantry this morning. *(rotation of 6 pics to give an idea of food pantry ideas)*

What I want us to imagine this morning is the most amazing household food pantry that we could imagine. Even more stocked than some of the amazing cooking shows.

This is the greatest pantry of all time.

 Fully stocked can goods of all sorts, sauces of all types, pastas, grains, and rices

 Every type of spice as well as ingredients

 Fully stocked fresh vegetables and fruits

 Fully stocked fish, bird, lamb, and beef

 Every good food that would help you prepare the most amazing meal for your personality choices is contained in this pantry.

Some of you absolutely love to cook so you might be super excited and dreaming.

Some of you dabble with cooking so you have a little bit of curiosity about what "might be".

Some of you would simply say, "I don't cook, what good is all that to me?"

Regardless of your background, training, or preferences.............the greatest pantry in the world has no value to you personally unless you take action.

The most amazing, greatest provisions are of absolutely no value to you unless you do something with the potential.

Regardless of your current understanding, abilities, and capabilities.......you have to take action for these amazing provisions to actually bless you and potentially bless others with you.

*(show the single picture of the spice rack on the back of the pantry door)*

Highlight a simple spice like garlic as an example.

Don't know how to use garlic.................begin using garlic powder in a container..............begin experimenting with real garlic cloves.................begin using a garlic press.

Learn different interactions and enhancements with just one spice. The impact becomes broader and broader as you realize all the ways it can be used and applied.

**The knowledge of applied effort and investment. It's a personal investment to realize potential**.

This analogy also helps us understand the power of helping someone grow and develop once they have made a decision to tap into the provisions of the pantry. We have to learn how to use and apply the provisions. We are going to ruin ingredients, burn food, and possibly undercook or overcook. We may even have a flash fire with a pan on the stove. It's all part of learning.

Reminder, no one can make you utilize the powerful provisions of your pantry but you. It is personal and only you can unlock this new potential in Christ.

**It does not take the greatest faith on the planet but it does take enough faith to take action.**

**Faith is not the absence of doubt or fear but rather the reality of acting on what God says about Himself as well as what He wants for us based on what He has already done for us.**

We have new potential in Christ and it is because He is God.

Peter is experientially proclaiming the potential that we have in Christ.

* The greatest power in the universe...........Creator God
* Creator God has made supernatural provisions on our behalf

What are we going to do with all of this?

Stand and study all the provisions and dream of the potential while doing nothing?

Walk in and get started? We are going to make mistakes but we are learning, personally and together as a family unit.