Sunday, November 5, 2023

The Proof is in the Pudding - 2 Peter 1:8-11

***3****His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us tohis own glory and excellence,[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20peter%201&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30466d)*]****4****by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.****5****For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,****6****and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,****7****and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.****8For if these qualities[***[***f***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20peter%201&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30471f)***] are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ****.*

I. Introduction

The Proof is in the Pudding! This is something that I have said for years and it makes Marissa laugh so much - I willingly confess that much of who I am is very much an old soul.

The Proof is in the Pudding! Have you heard that phrase before?

What am I trying to communicate when I say that phrase?

Here’s what is meant: **Value or Quality of something can be validated by the results.**

Also it’s an invitation for you to see for yourself - Don’t just take my word for it - look for yourself.

The proof is in the Pudding!

How many of you have someone in your family who claim to make “the best \_\_\_\_\_\_ (pie, casserole, cookies).” Way for you to check the validity is at the end of the family gathering - are there leftovers? The proof for that claim is in the fact that everyone ate it and its gone! The proof is in the pudding! Not in the boasting - showed itself in the results.

Athletics: So many people are captivated by the “best athlete - Top draft pick- best recruit of their class” How do we know if he or she is actually an amazing athlete - proof is in the pudding - can they live up to the hype, pressure, lifestyle by performing day in and day out.

Games, Movies, The newest Thing that just got released Top Gadget of 2023 - is it marketing or will it prove to be what its claims to be - will it live up to the hype or is it all just marketing to trick us to make an impulse purchase?

The proof is in the Pudding! Why are we talking about Pudding?

**We reveal who we are over time by the way we live our lives.**

**We reveal what actually matters to us by the way we live our lives.**

No way around it : in my life the proof is in the pudding! In your life the proof is in the pudding!

To put it another way: Author Ben Stuart says this

What you think about, you will care about.

What you care about, you will chase!

Why are we talking about this?

II. Recap

I believe this is the heart of what Peter is communicating to and trying to captivate our attention - I do not believe Peter is trying to make you and I feel bad because we are not being a good enough Christian. No!

We believe that Peter is challenging our thinking: Look at how Peter starts off in v3

***“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godlinesss, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that sin the world because of sinful desire.” 2 Peter 1:3-4***

Blow our minds that the God of all creation: Sees you - Loves you - Redeems you!

Notice you and I play NOOOOO role in verses 3 &4 : By God’s Divine Power has has granted us ALL THINGS (stop and allow that to sink into to your mind - What is God’s Divine Power capable of? BY THAT POWER we have access to all things pertaining to life and godliness!

How do we access this power? Through the Knowledge of him - that’s Bible talk to your relationship with God! As you value and focus on your relationship with God you have access to that power - to His promises.

As you live in Connection with God - He makes you more and more live Him revealing to you how corrupt and sinful and wicked this world is and our natural state without Him we choose sin, self, selfishness, what we want on our own terms without regard for the impact on others.

God graciously saves you and wants to teach you how to begin living - rather than walking unto your death like the rest of mankind.

SO Peter continues God did the heavy lifting - but it doesn’t end there - our faith Is not a trophy its a tool - Verse 5 “For this reason (Because God has saved you and is inviting you to a new way of life) make every effort to supplement your faith, lists the qualities..”

Peter is concerned that some people will believe mentally in God but never embrace Him, Peter is concerned that there are people who Know the great lengths that God went to save them but they never walk in relationship with God.

**Listen to me Peter is concerned: He is without a doubt hearing reports about how some people are choosing to live, seeing people who seemed like they were walking with Christ but now they have fallen away and he is concerned.**

Peter also knows that sin is still appealing and its constantly there like a predator just waiting to attack. As we are going to see in the next chapter there are so called spiritual leaders who Peter calls “false teachers” who are not leading people to God but telling them a different way.

Peter spends this time in chapter 1: remind us of the amazing things that God has done for us and challenge us that if its not a one and done prayer - this is a relationship that over the course of a lifetime as you stay committed to connection with God changes your life.

Today because in Peter’s day: just like in our day there are people that are here and seem committed to Jesus but then all of a sudden they are gone. What we are going to study today from 2 Peter is for the **PURPOSE of Personal EVALUATION**!

How can you insure you do not walk away from your faith - Peter is saying the proof is in the pudding!

The way you ensure you stay close to God is by staying close to God!

Main Idea: **Your ongoing connection with God proves the Authenticity of your faith**

READ v.8-11 Again with emphasis

**III. The Proof v.8**

The qualities or tools we have been discussing over the last few weeks - reveal the faith within!

Over the course of your life is these are true of you and are increasing - becoming more and more skilled with the tools - with the qualities then they will keep you from being unfruitful or ineffective.

If you have spent anytime around the Bible - Mind should be dinging with connections. The way he wrote that is making me think of other places in the Bible (Anyone ?)

In this spiritual sense How are we to increase these qualities? What are we to do to manufacture growth?

Peter tells us here “in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **So much here but this is one of the ways that Bible talks about fostering our relationship with Jesus. Staying connected to Jesus - causes growth.** (Any connections elsewhere in the Bible?)

**Turn to John 15: 4-5 (READ)**

**Abide: stay connected to Jesus and He supplies the growth - for apart from me you can do NOTHING.**

**Growth is the produce of our relationship with Jesus.**

**Not the metric you measure but it is the product of the relationship.**

**When we are connected to Jesus - over time we become more like him. The fruit or produce of our relationship with Him is a progression of the qualities listed above.**

**Proof that YOU have been saved by Jesus - through your relationship with Him you are becoming more like Him. (Proof is in the Pudding) (Self Examination not for others)**

**IV. No Proof v. 9 (read verse 9)**

Evaluation continues - if you look at your life and you lack these qualities.

V. The Proof Is In The Pudding (vs. 10-11)