



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Plugged Into The Word”

Ps. Rice Brooks– 1/18/2015

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, 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 is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:1-11

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- *Who is your favorite hero of the Old Testament? What do you admire about him/her?*
- *If you would become famous, for what would it be?*
- *What's the worst natural disaster that affected you or those close to you?*

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Everything we need to live a victorious life, the same way those spiritual giants of the Bible did, is available to us here and now. We have the same God, who has given us the same promises that were given to the spiritual giant heroes of the Scripture. If we have the same God, and the same promises, we can be sure that they are capable of producing in us the same faith.

1. **Promise.** *God has given us in His Word all we need to overcome the world, the devil, and our own flesh. The promises of God given to us in his Word are capable of producing faith that produces power to overcome. There is nothing special about the spiritual heroes, other than that they relied on God's word and did supernatural, amazing deeds to change the world and advance his Kingdom.*
2. **Progress.** *The promises don't dismiss us from our responsibility to make effort, with diligence, to grow in our faith. If we did the same fundamental things that the heroes of the Bible and history did, we too will make a difference in our world. We need to put diligence to read, meditate, and grow in our knowledge of God's promises to us. Geographical proximity to the church doesn't produce faith. The Word of God intentionally planted in our lives is what produces faith. Progress and growth are achieved when we are constantly adding to our faith, obedience, and knowledge. Knowledge of God and faith are connected.*
3. **Product.** *The same word, planted in the same type of soil, will produce the same results. If we want to have an unshakable life that makes a difference in the world, we need to go back to the basics of reading, trusting, and obeying the Scripture. The outcome of that Word planted in a diligent heart that is constantly seeking to grow in God is:*
 - *Abundant fruitfulness. We will not be ineffective, nor unfruitful, but rather we will change the world.*
 - *Unshakable life. The power given to us is greater than the power of sin and temptation. The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in us and will raise us from the depth of sin, depression and addiction.*
 - *Confident entrance. Many Christians live in constant ups and downs taken by the wind of external circumstances. Yet the promise of God is confidence, security, and assurance of a rich entrance into God's eternal Kingdom. This type of life is available to us.*

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- *Do you have a set time and place to read and meditate on the Scripture?*
- *What changes do you need to make in your daily life in order to "make every effort to supplement your faith"?*
- *What did you learn from this lesson and how are you going to apply it to your life?*

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- *Pray for the Holy Spirit to increase your appetite for the Word of God.*
- *Pray to commit to read and meditate on the Scripture every day next week.*
- *Pray for God to give us a Spirit of wisdom and understanding of his promises and power available to us.*