

“End 2019 with 2020 Vision!”

Greg Wendschlag December 8, 2019

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: 2 Thess; Nahum; 2 Peter; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Jude; Is. 42-47

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure; they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:3-11

I. **What God Does for Us**

³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

- God gives you **everything you need** to live a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us.
- God gives you His great and precious **promises** in order to participate in the **divine nature**.
 - Nature determines **appetite**
 - Nature determines **behavior**
 - Nature determines **environment**
 - Nature determines **association**
- God rescues you from the **corruption** of the world.

II. **What We Do**

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure; they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.”

Add to your saving faith:

- **Goodness** – fulfilling your purpose according to your nature; doing what you're supposed to do.
- **Knowledge** – practical discernment; ability to handle life successfully.
- **Self-control** – self-mastery; rule yourself and your appetites.
- **Perseverance** – continue in the faith while resisting life's pressures.
- **Godliness** – God-likeness; piety; doing what is right because it is the will of God.
- **Brotherly kindness** – sincere affection for others
- **Love** – self-sacrificial love of God

If we possess these we will keep from being:

- **Ineffective** – idle with no practical result in daily life
- **Unfruitful** – producing nothing

If you do not possess these you will be:

- **Nearsighted** – you can only see what is right in front of you
- **Blind** – your mind is unaware of the big picture; unaware of what God is doing
- Forgetful of your **forgiveness** – shame of guilt with no joy in what God has done for us

III. How God Rewards

¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

- **Confirm** your calling and election – Faith without works is dead.
- You will **never stumble**
- You will receive a **rich welcome** into God's eternal Kingdom.

Thoughts for prayer and meditation

- I accept, by faith that God has given me everything I need to participate in His divine nature.
- Do my actions, words and thoughts more resemble God's nature or the sinful nature?
- What must I repent of and what must I add to my life in order to be effective and productive?
- Think about heaven and how great His rich reward will be!