

## Compass Bearing #25

Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic

### **"An Effective and Productive Life" by Pastor Mark Ellcessor**

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

One of the key aspects of being a true disciple of Jesus is to know God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This knowledge goes far beyond storing up information about God, just as knowing my wife means more than just knowing her name, birthdate, and hometown. When you truly know somebody, you are changed because of the relationship. 2 Peter 1 gives an insight into what that kind of knowledge of God looks like in our lives.

#### Divine Faith

*Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a **faith** as precious as ours (v. 1).* Peter begins his letter reminding us that the very faith and righteousness we possess are gifts from Jesus to us!

#### Divine Grace and Peace

**Grace and peace** be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord (v. 2). Knowing God frees us from guilt and turmoil, replacing them with divine grace and peace. Because of Jesus, we can walk in freedom.

#### Divine Power

**His 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 (v. 3). Our intimate knowledge of God (relationship) exposes us to His glory and goodness, which enable us to live godly lives through His divine power.

#### Divine Nature

*Through 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 (v. 4).* Intimacy with the world leads to worldliness; intimacy with God leads to godliness. We are exposed to the Lord's divine promises and encompassed by His divine nature.

#### Divine Character

<sup>5</sup> *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your **faith** goodness; and to **goodness**, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to **knowledge**, self-control; and to **self-control**, perseverance; and to **perseverance**, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to **godliness**, mutual affection; and to **mutual affection**, **love** (v. 5-7).* We become who we hang around (I love that commercial where adult children become just like their parents). These attributes of God become ours the more we spend time with Him.

#### Divine Life

<sup>8</sup> *For 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. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins (v. 8-9).* Knowledge for knowledge sake does little good. You can have all the degrees a university has to offer, but what matters is whether you are an effective nurse, teacher, lawyer, engineer, or pastor. You can have the entire Bible memorized, but if you don't take on the divine power, nature and character of Christ, you will be ineffective and unproductive in that knowledge.

#### Divine Purpose

<sup>10</sup> *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm **your calling and election**. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (v. 10-11).* In the end, we are to live into our divine purpose. Ask yourself, "Why am I one of Christ's elect? How is the Holy Spirit calling me? What is my God-given purpose in this world?" You will gain insight into the answers through a deep, intimate, relationship with God the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Take some time now to be with God. Read this passage from 2 Peter 1:1-11 again. What does it teach you about Jesus? What do you learn about people? How is it speaking to you? Sit with the Holy Spirit and listen, learn, and live the life you were meant to live