2 Peter 1:1-15

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:

1. We have complete ________ to the ________ of God.

2. We need to keep ________ on the Blind ________.

3. Take one ________ at a time.

2 Peter 1:1-15

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:

2. May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3. 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, 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.

a faith of equal standing with ours: Peter identifies his audience as fellow believers who have a faith of “equal standing with ours”. This term which could be translated: “who have received a faith as precious as ours”, or “equally honorable” is found only here in the NT. Whose faith is this faith equal to? Peter’s point is to put them on the same level as he is with respect to faith because the righteousness they all have comes from Jesus.

His divine power has granted to all things: The focus of this section is on what God has given us: “all things that pertain to life and godliness”. Peter is talking about a godly living and for him there is no excuse for not living a godly life, for believers have already received everything that is necessary to do so.

granted to us his precious and very great promises: Through these unspecified promises followers of Jesus gain two benefits, the first positive (“partakers of the divine nature”) and the second negative (“escape the corruption in the world caused because of sinful desires”).

become partakers of the divine nature: How? When believers share some characteristic quality of God, making us more like the divine world than like the world of
human beings. The second effect of begin granted "all things" by God is an escape from "the corruption that is in the world." "Sinful desire" is at the root of the moral corruption in the world and because of this the subject to decay.

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.

Knowledge then informs our perception of what is useful or harmful, godly and ungodly, of what is to be done and to be avoided. It preserves us from indiscriminate zeal and exaggerations. Knowledge is "the wisdom and discernment which the Christian needs for a virtuous life and which is progressively acquired."

and knowledge with self-control: Self-government that brings abstinence from the lust of the world. "It abstains from the evil it knows to identify, and in Christian liberty steadilybridles the desires and lusts of the eyes, flesh and boastful heart.

and self-control with steadfastness: The practice of self-bridling (self-control) leads to inner "steadfastness", endurance (in battle),temperance or perseverance. In the Christian world the term appears thirty-two times in the NT, for example, in Pauline virtue lists (Rom 5:3-4; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 3:10; Titus 2:2), James (Jas 1:3, 12; 5:11). It indicates endurance, but in a spiritual battle rather than in a physical battle or an athletic contest. It is the virtue needed to stand firm in one's commitment to Jesus over the long haul in the face of persecution (thus its prominence in James and Revelation) or other hardships.

and steadfastness with godliness: Adding godliness (piety) means we consider God in control of our whole life, and hold him in such supreme honor, that we seek His approval in our actions and reactions.

and godliness with brotherly affection: The first of the clearly horizontally focused virtues is "brotherly affection or kindness", which would be better translated as "familial affection." This virtue would also not have sounded strange in the Greco-Roman world. The term indicated acts of affection and generosity among physical kin. What is unique in Christianity is that this familial love was extended to the whole church family; that is, all believers were treated as if they were physical kin - brothers and sisters.

and brotherly affection with love: The final item in our list, "love" (agapē), flows naturally from "kinship/familial affection." In 1 Corinthians 13 it is presented as the chief virtue, even greater than faith (which heads our list here). The important point to keep in mind is that love is a virtue, not an emotion. Christians are not being encouraged to feel warmly about each other or even to like one another; they are instructed to act lovingly toward one another. Thus Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 speaks about what love does, how it acts, not how it feels.

Peter opposes.

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.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

Resources: 