

Ingredients for Faith

Know Pain Know Gain series

by Chris Famisaran

All right. Good morning, everybody. How are you all doing today? Awesome. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I know thank you for all the many calls and texts and just ran and pass them by we truly love Lisa and I love being here. You're not going to get rid of us quickly. Surely love being here. And I love you all. Thank you so much. And thank you all so are praising them. They sound excellent today. Find out some of those. All these sounded awesome, especially as we were seeing were clapping. I love that. Don't be afraid to clap here.

All right, let's go ahead and begin with a word of prayer. God, we're starting a new phase in our series. We're dipping now into the letter. The second letter of Peter may be leaving guidance now as we study be with us in Jesus name. Amen.

So, Greg Asimakoupoulos, that's a tongue twister, recounts a story in his book that there was a baker who was attending a conference, I believe that was a conference that a Christian conference. And it was being led by Dr. Harry Ironside and she was being complimented by the biscuits, the homemade biscuits that she had made. They were nice and fluffy, fluffy and delicate, warm. It was delicious. And he asked her, you know, what, what do you have to do to make such great biscuits? And she she mentioned, you know, the flower itself, just by itself. Anybody ever tried to eat flower by itself? Okay, there's got to be more than just me when I was a kid. It tastes horrible, right? As soon as you eat it all of a sudden it. It clumps up together and leaves us really bad taste in your mouth. Same as baking powder. Does baking powder tastes great. Nope. How about shortening by itself? Yeah, you take all of these ingredients by itself doesn't taste great. But when you combine them together, it makes something beautiful and delicious. And just heartwarming for me biscuits and gravy. Love it. Awesome. not healthy for you. That doesn't matter. I still love it. Growing up, and especially when I worked at summer camp, it was my favorite meal. One particular cook every time I've had the opportunity to go up for a week when I was the weekly pastor. For special occasions. I always ask them, Matt, are you doing biscuits and gravy because for whatever reason, I just I love biscuits and gravy that he he made and it brought a certain comfort to me. And he's just he's a good dude, I love that guy. And so when you bring these things together, something amazing happens. And as Greg also points out, sometimes much of life can seem tasteless, even that the God is able to combine these ingredients in a way that it can become amazing. And God desires that we have amazing. And once I have an amazing life, Amen.

All right, let's go ahead and jump to our first passage we're going to look at let's go to the letter, the second letter of Peter. And let's read the first half, verses 1 through 11. And our the first half of this is essentially talking about faithfulness and also the kingdom the not maybe the eternal kingdom, as somebody once said, Faithfulness and the eternal kingdom. Let's look at a couple of things. Now right off the bat. Peter is going to announce who he is is very typical at the time of how he wrote except in this letter. It's going a little bit different compared to First Peter one one it says, Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ. Now when you just look at that we see okay, Simon Peter, blah, blah, blah,

blah. He's going to write a letter. Now, put a finger here on this passage. Let's look over a couple of chapters. The first Peter one And one okay hold that. And when we look at First Peter one one What does it just what what does it say?

It says, Peter, the second letter Peter says, Simon Peter, or if you pronounce it in the Greek Shimon, this is different. See, Peter is not just saying his name. He seen it in a way, the Hebrew way of pronouncing it Shimon. And here he goes on a servant, or as the Greek says, doulos. We've been talking about how we should submit to one another Peters is harping on this, and then also being an apostle and Emissary. So in Second Peter, 1:1, Peter amps. I don't want to call it pressure, but he's signifying something simian recognizing his roots, especially as a Jewish man, following Jesus, becoming a Christian. Alright, essentially, that's what it morphed into, and being a servant and an apostle and emissary, a defender, a spokesperson for Jesus. Let's go and continue to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, have received a faith as precious as ours. Kind of a weird way of putting it why? Why does Peter say that? And when you look at it, he's he's writing to, most likely some gentile believers, they didn't grow up in the Jewish faith. And it's also been some time, more than likely, it's probably this was written around AD 60, something maybe AD 64. And so it's been some time since Jesus's died, decades, in fact. And so they do not have the opportunity to see who Jesus was first person, Peters having to write from his experience and share. And as he says, precious as ours, he's simply stating that your faith is just as equal as everyone else from the apostles, to those who've gone through. Your faith is just as great, and we are no better than you. And then he goes in with the grace and peace, be yours in abundance, through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Now, our next section that we talk about is essentially, Peter is going to talk about the calling that we all have, as followers of Jesus, and not just a calling, but to be elected, to be standing out. His divine power, has given us everything we need for a godly life, through our knowledge of Him, who call this by His own glory, and what his goodness. So we can call upon God and He will provide that power that is needed to be able to live a faithful life. Verse four, throughout, 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 of the world, caused by evil desires. Remember, in our first letter how we're talking about, especially this last week, what should we not? What should we expect? As it says fiery out or deals trouble challenges, and at times, there will be suffering, right? To be honest, we don't like that idea. Because it means that we're going to have to be uncomfortable. But life is not meant to be comfortable. Anybody ever had a comfortable life that escaped? Any but has anybody ever lived a life that is comfortable and never experienced pain? We all do, for the most part at one point.

Okay, so promises and you know, when it comes to promises, there's a story told Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance anybody ever heard of it started many years ago in Wisconsin, of all places back in the 1850s, I believe. And to know their story, these two individuals who started it was quite the introduction to to sell in life insurance because right at the very beginning, unfortunately, there was a train accident, and two of the passengers who had died I subscribe to that insurance. So it originally started as Mutual Life Insurance Company of the state of Wisconsin on March to 1857. Now, several years later, it had relocated to Milwaukee in 1859. And shortly after that they experienced their first two death claims. There was a train going from Janesville to fond lock, Wisconsin, and unfortunately, the train fell off the track and got derailed killing 14 people to two of them who were pop policy owners. And at the time,

there was losses amounting to \$3,500. Now 2022, you think? Okay, \$2,200, or \$3,500? That's quite a bit. But back in 1859, how much more expensive? And guess how much they only had in the bank to be able to pay up? Two grand? What were they going to do? How could they find \$1,500 at that point? Well, the President Samuel Daggett and the treasurer Charles Nash, they personally had to borrow the needed funds to be able to pay them immediately. And some asked, Well, why don't you just default on the on the payments, and they said, it would not have been right, the right thing to do to these individuals, families. And they both agreed that they would rather see the company fail, and neglect their own obligation to those who trust them, to keep their word.

And when we look at this passage here, no promises they promised to pay out the benefits, if it ever was called into here, Peter reminding us that through God there is the very great and precious promises that God has for us, to help us in this calling that God wants for us. And so in verse five, it says, For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, what goodness, and here we're talking about, here's some ingredients that we can have in it that we can apply to our life, to help us grow spiritually and to be closer to God, and to be to call to carry out what God has called for us. And goodness, knowledge, knowledge, self control, perseverance, and to perseverance godliness, into godliness, mutual affection, into mutual affection, love. So these are the seven ingredients for faith, goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. When we practice these things, amazing things happen in our lives. When we practice goodness or kindness to other people. Does it affect your relationships? Right? Because if you acted like a person who was not good, who was mean, maybe a tyrant, or just rude, are people going to want to hang out with you? They're not, right. But it's also important that we also soak up the knowledge, to take time to soak up what God has in store for us in scriptures to learn that we can apply to our lives. To not only know who God is, but ultimately, to improve and better our lives, to have self control. Perseverance. Patience, is another way of saying that. And then godliness having a relationship growing in Christ. mutual affection, they're living in a time, the recipients of this letter where there's continued persecution, we have to band together. When we band together, is it always easy, especially when you're worried about potentially your life, being in jeopardy, or just dealing with the day to day grind and being persecuted? being harassed, it can build up right. And so love one another, look out for one another, be united together. Now let's go ahead and continue in this passage.

Let's go to verse 12. And it's here that Peter affirms Jesus return and God's faithfulness God's goodness. So verse 12. So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in this tent of this body Because I know that I will soon put it aside as our Lord Jesus is made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure, you will always be able to remember these things. In a way, this is Peter's testament to this group, his story, his desire to make sure that he's going to try to do everything that he can to make sure that they're properly equipped and to share whatever stories he could if, and also to be a vessel to help that the gospel moves forward. Verses 16 through 18. And then talks about he he's affirming again, the coming of Jesus Christ, which at this time were the recipients. There's other people who are questioning that, and causing seeds of dissension. And so he says, For we did not follow cleverly devised stories, when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus and power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. What is Peter trying to say here? We didn't just make this up. Because why Peter was there. You ever experienced something and somebody calls it

into question? Like, dude, I was there, I can tell you, from my own memory, I saw it, I heard it. Maybe I smelled the senses in our in our bodies. Help us to remember. And as you recount the stories, Peter was able to remember all of the miracles that Jesus did all of the difficult times, Jesus had to deal with all of those difficult people. Peter remembers the time of denying Jesus three times. And then also the grace that Jesus showed afterwards. Peter remembers the time that Jesus died for him. And, Peter also remembers the time that Jesus promised that he would return. So he's here he's serving as an eye witness, he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from the majestic glory, saying, This is my Son, whom I love with him, I am well what? pleased. Peter was there to see Jesus being baptized, God speaking, we ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven, when we will, we're with him on the sacred mountain.

As we continue, here, in this last chunk, verses 19 to 21. Peter reminds them of Jesus return, we also have a prophetic message is something completely reliable. And you will do well to pay attention to it as a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy came about by the prophets own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will. But prophets, though human, spoke from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. So the prophetic word, and the teachings who inspired that? Was it just some Prophet coming up with something? No, it was God's Word, God either via the Holy Spirit, God speaking, impressing upon the minds, the prophets, and the writers of the Bible. These things are true these things we can hold on to with strength. Because God does not abandon us, does not leave us, by ourselves. God has, if you think about it, over the many years, this book, this collection of writings, by many people, has stand stood the test of time. And so should we not take that? Should we take this for granted? No. This is a beautiful promise, many promises in this gift that we have in our hands, that God can enrich and better our lives.

So there's a couple of things number one, God gives us the seven ingredients of faith that we should take and we should practice. And then we also just have to quickly remember as Peters testament writing, he's not he's not just here because he wants to he's he's, he's suffering and laboring and trying to do what he can to encourage and exhort these believers, but also be reminded of his his testimony. He's seen what has happened. And finally, he's also exhorting them and encourage You know that there is promise and hope in the words of Jesus, and also all of Scripture, and the message will stand true and will happen.

Now. As you look upon your life, let's just go back to the seven ingredients. Okay? Which of the seven ingredients do you resonate with? And you could build on? Let's just maybe go back. Okay. Which one of these? Do you identify with? Like, you know, I'm I think I'm pretty strong in that area. Whether it's goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, or love. And maybe what are the ingredients that you think you know, maybe we could improve on we could grow? There's room for growth? Think about that for a second. Okay. Are you a firm believer? Do you study? Do you have knowledge? It's one thing to have knowledge, but to be practicing. So, with these seven ingredients, which ones do you resonate with? And could you build on the challenge this week is take one ingredient, you could build on one that there's room for growth. And I want you to practice that ingredient every day, this week. Amen. And I want you to come back next week and tell me hey, I'm gonna ask, how'd it go?

My friends, may the Lord bless leading guide you and may as you practice this challenge, may your life be enriched. Let's pray. Father in heaven, thank you for your goodness, your love and your mercy. Lord, you did not leave us nor abandon us. And thank you for the promise that Lord, you will return. But also, we can go forth with encouragement, knowing that you've also left us a path through Scripture. And also we have a community here to help nurture and grow in faith and to look out and to help one another, leading guidance and all that we do. As we study this passage, Lord in our small groups and speak, help us to go deeper to find deeper understanding. And above all, Lord, may we not just learn this knowledge, but apply to our lives? We will those who could not make it here today. Will you continue to help us to be the ambassadors and emissaries that you've called us to not only here in Downey, but wherever we live, wherever we go. In Jesus name, everybody said, Amen.

Grace and peace, everybody. Have a wonderful week, and we'll see you soon.