

TITLE: Participating in His Divine Nature

SUB-TITLE: (Knowing Jesus Better)

INTRO: Timing of letter and Peter.

WORD: Read

PRAY



1. His Divine Power v. 3 Everything Begins with God

HIS - Look back at verse 1 “of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.”... in greek the

“...single article (τοῦ, “the”) governs the two nouns “God” and “Savior,” and these nouns are connected by καὶ (and). According to the Granville Sharp rule, this construction indicates that both terms “God and Savior” have the same referent: Jesus Christ.”

Divine - adj. ”divine” (from theos, "God"), is “of the power of God,” here, and of “His nature,” ver. 4, in each place, as that which proceeds from Himself.

Romans 11:36 “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.” ESV

Noun: "Divine service." It is used in the more general sense of service to God, in John 16:2; Rom 12:1.

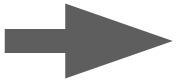
Masters of Divinity: We should all be “masters of divinity,” in Holy service to our King... *“I shall make you a Kingdom of Priests, a Holy nation (Exodus 19:6)*

...You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

Power -

“Human ideas of power almost exclusively deal with physical strength, physical resources, or demonstrations of explosive potential. When we think of power, it is most often power used in some way to achieve one's own desires.

God's power has often been misunderstood because we tend to think of God's power in terms of physical strength, omniscient knowledge, or as a wealth of resources at His disposal. But the power of God is demonstrated by His ability to accomplish His will in every situation, both real and potential, through any means He chooses in order to glorify Himself. God's power is centered on His will and His glory.”



His Divine Power... has given us...

Three Beautiful phrases!

a. Everything we need for living a godly life!

There's only one resource book by which you can receive true understanding of God and that's the Bible. Your knowledge of God must come through God's revelation of Himself. And our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the “*visible image of the invisible God.*” (Col 1:15)

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

We have received all this...

by coming to know HIM

Knowing You, Jesus
Knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord
Yeah-yeah

b. by Knowing Jesus

“Knowing YOU, Jesus”

...the ONE who Has Called Us To Himself...

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” (Phil 3:8)

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die

c. By means of (to receive) HIS Marvelous Glory & Excellence (Goodness)

Three beautiful statements to live by:

We have everything we need for godliness, through knowing Jesus, the One who called us to Himself by His Glory and Goodness.



2. His Divine Nature v. 4

AND BECAUSE OF HIS GLORY AND EXCELLENCE...

He has given us...

a. Great (magnificent/rich) and Precious (wonderful) Promises

b. ... these are the Promises that Enable you to Share in

His Divine Nature -



Immersed in Trinitarian Community

c. Escape the world's corruption Caused by human Desires

PROMISES:

Jer 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future

Great and Precious Promises in this text:

1. We have everything we need to live a full and meaningful (godly) life.
2. As we participate God's Nature through faith we grow into who we were created to be.
3. We are called to Himself.
4. We are given His Glory and excellence.
5. All the promises of Scripture!
6. We are enabled to share in His Divine Nature
7. We are enabled to escape corruption caused by human desires.
8. The more you grow, the more productive and useful you will be in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... this is a cycle.

and a hope.”

*Matthew 7:7 “Keep on asking, and **you will receive** what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and **you will find**. Keep on knocking, and **the door will be opened** to you.”*

Matthew 28:20 “Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

 **For this reason...**

3. Make Every Effort v. 5.

Respond, supplement, add to

“Speak to Being and Doing”

This list of virtues are like stair steps as we ascend toward the ultimate goal...

Supplement, add to... not like vitamins, but essential building blocks to healthy living, like eating right, exercise and rest. Organic, like planting these attributes in your life... both the seed and fruit!

 **These are the attributes of the King, Jesus Christ!**

*** Faith [belief, trust, confidence, fidelity, faithfulness]**

Faith, of course, is the foundational Christian virtue (or, better, gift; see v. 1); with it we respond to God’s call and come to know Him and His Son, the Lord Jesus (v. 3). But true

Christian faith, as James especially reminds us (James 2:14 - 26), always leads further.

*** Moral Excellence [goodness, virtue, uprightness]**

Peter calls on us to add “goodness” to our basic response to God’s work. “Excellence” (arete) is the same word Peter used at the end of verse 3 to describe God’s quality of moral excellence.

Put on the whole Armor of God:

Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6)

Be transformed by and into His Holiness (Rom 12).

*** Knowledge of God [doctrine, wisdom]**

Not general knowledge, here, it refers specifically to the ability to discern God’s will and orient one’s life in accordance with that will. Dallas “Knowledge is interactive relationship.

Be (abide) in Him, in all circumstances. (Jn. 15:4).

Be His Witness (Matt 28:19).

*** v. 6 Self-Control [self-mastery, self-restraint]**

Self-control, an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23), enables believers to avoid falling prey to the temptations — especially sexual — that are so unavoidable in the world in which we live. Remember the promise to escape the corruption caused by evil desires.

*** Patient Endurance [steadfastness, patient waiting]**

Endurance is the ability to “bear up under” (the Greek word, hypomone, comes from two Greek words, “under” and “remain”). The New Testament frequently uses this word to describe the Christian’s ability to remain steadfast in his or her faith in times of trial

Be faithful to the end: *“God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” (Phil 1:6)*

*** Godliness [piety, devotion]**

While God gives us the ability to become godly, it is our responsibility to use the power he has made available to us and actually work at becoming people who please God in every phase of life.

Glorify Him - your view of God drives your heart, mind, and actions. *Isaiah 26:8 “Lord, we love to obey your laws; our heart’s desire is to glorify your Name.”*

*** v. 7 Brotherly love [philadelphian, love of christian brethren, fraternal affection]**

This is specifically, “love of the Christian brothers and sisters,” or as the ESV renders it, “brotherly affection. This may be difficult at times, but rememberer Jesus said,

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples” (Jn 13:35).

This is love defined as, “Intending good on another.” Christ between me and you. You are dealing with Christ in the other...

*** Love (for everyone) [agape, affection, benevolence]**

Agape, then, is not a completely different love, but embraces “love of the brethren” as one sphere of Christian love in its fullest scope — that Spirit-given act of the will by which we treat other people with active benevolence. Surely it is not by chance that love, the crown of Christian virtues (see 1 Cor. 13), comes at the climax of Peter’s list of Christian qualities. Note the parallel in Colossians 3:14, “And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony.”

The Cycle of Praise and Worship.

v. 8 The More you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Summary:

The Trinitarian, Creator-power of Yahweh, displayed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, has given us everything we need to live a godly life. His divine power enables and calls us to Himself to participate in Christ’s Divine Nature. As we know Jesus more, we

receive His Glory and Excellence. These virtues, born out of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, grow in us, moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly love and God-like love. The more we grow in these, the more the more the cycle repeats, leading to Christlikeness; being more like Jesus.