**2 Peter 1:1–21 (NKJV)**

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6  to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7  to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, 14 knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. Read through the book of 2 Peter in a single sitting. How is 2 Peter similar to 1 Peter? How is it different?
2. List the gifts from God to believers in vv. 2–4. What does this imply about the Christian’s ability to live a godly life?
3. Peter gives a list of several virtues in vv. 5–7. What is the central verb that unites this list of virtues, and what does that verb suggest about the nature of Christian growth?
4. What is the relationship between the “abundance” of spiritual virtues described in verse 8 and the “lack” of spiritual virtues in verse 9? Explain how the warning in verse 10 logically expands the statements of vv. 8–9.
5. In verses 12-14, Peter frequently states that it is important to “remind” his readers of “these things” (v. 12). What is it that is so important to remember?
6. In verse 17, Peter cites an experience where he heard the Father commend the Son. What contextual statement does this experience prove, and how does it prove that statement?
7. Explain the process that is like “a light that shines in a dark place” (v. 19). Why is this metaphor appropriate?
8. What does it mean to say “no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation” (v. 20)? Restate this using your own words.

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of 2 Peter 1:1–21 for your own life today.*

1. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?
2. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?