

## 2 Peter 1:3-13

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

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. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Inspired

"WOW, I learned something!"

Familiar

"Oh yeah, I remember that."

Bored

"I already know this."

Mastery

"I can call it up at the appropriate moment."

2 Peter 1:3 says:  
we have been given everything we need for  
godliness.

That is, *WE CAN BECOME*  
people of spiritual substance.

## Matthew 6

Godliness comes not by working harder but by having just one master.

The thing that makes progress so difficult is that we are trying to go in two directions.



Matthew 6:33

But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The goal of Christ's work in you is not just your forgiveness.

His larger goal is embracing the "new self"

(Colossians 3:10, Ephesians 4:24)

# Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Salvation doesn't have a "catch",  
it has a *purpose*.

# Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Be of the same mind with one another. Do not be high minded, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited...

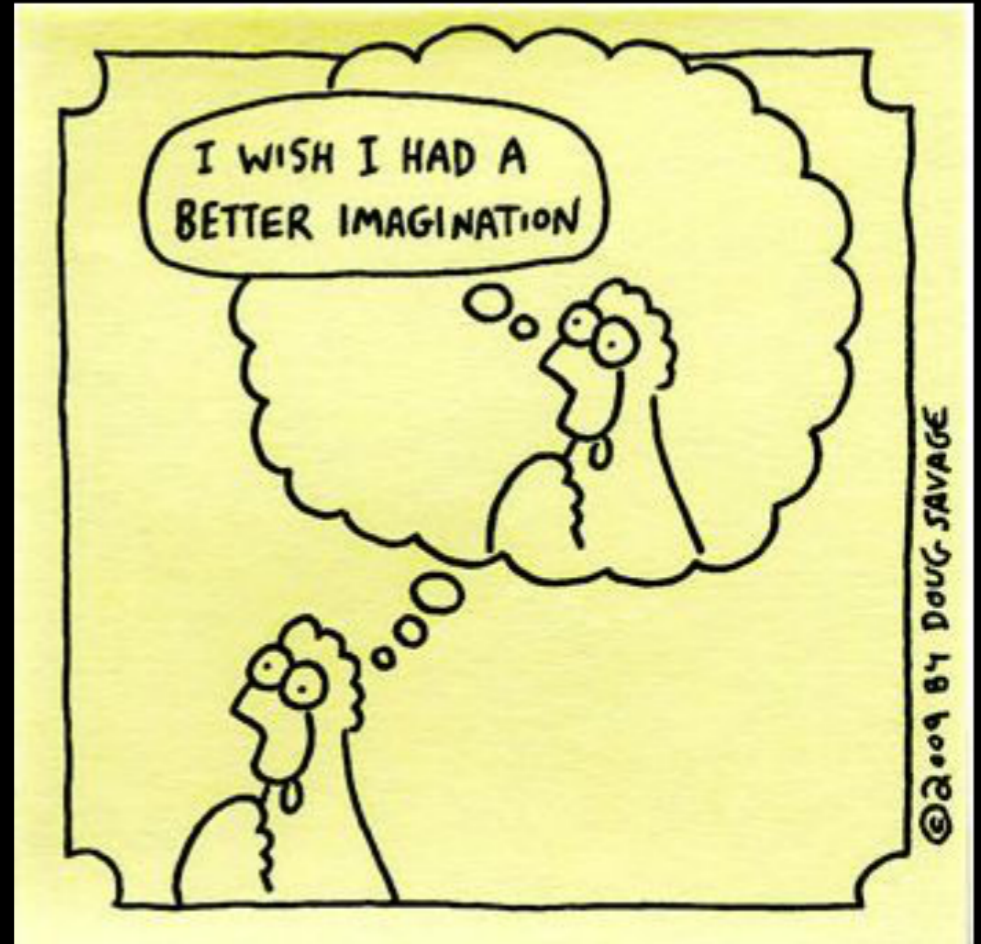


...Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," {19 Deut. 32:35} says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." {20 Prov. 25:21,22} Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Symptom of worldliness:

Failure of Spiritual  
imagination



# The Haunting Question:


He hasn't made us godly by his sheer power,  
and we can't become godly in our own power.

So how could God say we  
have "everything we need for godliness"?

How could he give us godliness as a gift?  
How do you give someone character?

We can at least make sense of justification as a gift.

"give" is literally in the word "forgiveness".







in case you're not the  
sharpest knife in the drawer

# The question for 2018:

How do you receive a gift that doesn't seem to be given, and that you can't make yourself?

# Godly character requires four things:

1. Regeneration  the "New Birth"
2. Discipline  "embrace discipline and escape diversion"
3. Identity  who I am "in Christ"
4. Motivation  The internal desire and drive to do the good

# What drove Jesus?

What was powerful enough in him  
to do the impossible in us?

(BTW: he told us.)



# John 17:13

"I am coming to you (the father) now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, **so that** they may have **the full measure of my joy within them.**

# Hebrews 12:2

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him** endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

# Philippians 1:23-26

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

# 2 Realizations this can bring:

1. It's clear how godliness can be a gift that can be received by faith alone
2. If joy is a virtue, it can be pursued.

1. It's clear how godliness can be a gift  
(even a gift that's power comes through knowledge)

If godliness is a gift,  
then it can be securely received.

*1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 (NIV 1984)*

**Be joyful always.**

*ROMANS 12:12A (NIV 1984)*

**Be joyful in hope.**

## 2. If joy is a virtue, it can be pursued.

The gift of Godliness is received through "making every effort". It is a sweaty business. This is **GOOD NEWS**.

What is the alternative?

The passivity and determinism of worldly "sophistication"?







**FIGHTING FOR**

*JOY*

Sacrificial love



The Mind of Christ



Virtuous Freedom

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

# Rhythms of Joy

What God's commanded celebrations and festivals  
can teach is about joy

Feb 18-Mar 11

Plus: 4 festivals in our church year

Jesus said,

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life, and have it to  
the full.”

(John 10:10)



**FIGHTING FOR**

*JOY*