Daily Devotion #227

**You Have Everything You Need**

**2 Peter 1:3 (NASB)**  *“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence*.”

I remember years ago one of my junior varsity coaches yelling at me while I was on the basketball court to get aggressive. When I missed a rebound, he turned and kicked one of our chairs across the floor. His point was that I needed to recognize that I had what it took to be a good basketball player, I just needed to use it. I needed to be assured of my abilities and use them. Obviously I’ve never forgotten that day. It is permanently etched in my mind. I can still see his red face and hear his loud screams directed at me to be aggressive. At the time I didn’t appreciate his demeanor or his way of getting his point across, and I still don’t, but now I see his point. It is true that when an athlete has practiced and practiced and proven they have all that it takes to do what needs to be done on the court, the only thing left to do is do it.

A few years after Peter wrote to the dispersed, persecuted believers in Christ, Peter wrote a second letter. If you pay attention to what Peter says in his opening words, he clearly makes known that God, through His power, has given to us, you and me, believers in Him, everything we need in this life to be godly. By referring to godly, Peter means that we have everything necessary given to us by God to revere Him, to honor Him, to worship Him, and to give Him praise and glory.

Most believers understand that their purpose in life is to honor God through praise and worship. But there is more to being godly than reverence in the sense of praise and worship. There is also loyalty and obedience. Too often, these two subjects become stumbling blocks to believers. Most don’t have any problems worshipping but struggle with loyalty and obedience. There are many days when our fleshly minds desire to do what we want instead of what we know God wants. There are many days when we are more concerned about filling our day with obeying our fleshly desires or the desires of others more than we are obeying our Lord.

Some people will go so far as saying that they just can’t obey God in everything, or they will say that they can’t by loyal the way God wants them to be. My wife and I were in a store sometime ago and saw a t-shirt on a woman that said, “I love Jesus, but I cuss a little”. Most people can identify with the weakness of the flesh while still loving Jesus, but the point Peter is making is that even when life is at its worst, believers have everything they need from the Holy Spirit to not fall for their weaknesses. We have all the power of God Himself working in us and through us to not give in to our earthly tendencies. The truth is that we give in to earthly or fleshly attitudes and actions because they seem more satisfying than following God.

If any had an excuse to listen to their flesh, it was the believers in Rome at the time Peter wrote these letters. In fact, Peter was most likely in a cold, dark prison in Rome when he wrote this second letter. He, too, would have had every reason to give up and think it was hopeless to live a godly life. But that’s not what the Holy Spirit directed him to write because it’s not true.

Not matter what you are facing, and this time in our history is one to be discouraged over, you and I have been given everything we need spiritually to get us through. His power has granted to us everything we need to live this life in a God-honoring, God-glorifying way. That is why he called us. That is why He chose us.

We have been given the very knowledge to know that God is real and everything He has said and done is real. Therefore, you and I don’t need to cower in the corner believing that we have no way of getting through trials. We must believe what God has told us and live our lives in confidence that we have everything in our possession spiritually to be loyal to God, to follow Him, and to obey Him – in everything.