Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #27: Faith Is The Foundation Of Change

2 Peter 2:1 NKJV

*Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have obtained likeprecious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

ESV *SimeonPeter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

NLT *This letter is from SimonPeter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ.*

*I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairnessof Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.*

"Share the same precious faith"

***"Obtained like precious faith" or "obtained a faith of equal standing"***

"Obtained" is the word that describes precious faith but it does not mean what it may appear to mean in the English.

This does not have to do with earning or effort but rather in the Greek carries the idea of casting lots or to receive by divine allotment

Peter, the apostle, was stating a subtle truth...........you are on equal standing with me. Same faith, same forgiveness, same precious standing before God because of Jesus.

Faith is the foundation of all that Peter is about to proclaim in all the teaching following verse 1.

I want us to look at the depth of the simplicity of what Peter proclaims to us.

***"by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"***

**Today, I want to make a very simple point but a point that is still a struggle for many of us.**

**Our faith, our belief, in what Father God has done for us through the sacrifice of His Son creates a faith that is a gift from God and is equal faith for all of us. The same type of redemption, forgiveness, and standing because it is by Him and through Him.**

**It is His righteousness not our righteousness.**

**It is not a faith that we can earn by being good or doing good things to impress God.**

Pause for silence then reread......... **It is not a faith that we can earn by being good or doing good things to impress God**

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

***8****For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—****9****not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Hebrews 11:1-3 & 6 ESV

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.****2****For by it the people of old received their commendation.****3****By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

*6And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

**None of us have the righteousness capacity to earn our own equal standing faith before God.**

Romans 3:9-12 NKJV

***9****What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.*

***10****As it is written:*

*“There is none righteous, no, not one;****11****There is none who understands;  
There is none who seeks after God.****12****They have all turned aside;  
They have together become unprofitable;  
There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

Same chapter of Romans 19-26

***19****Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty (accountable) before God.****20****Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

***21****But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,****22****even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;****23****for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,****24****being justified freely (without any cost) by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,****25****whom God set forth as a propitiation (mercy seat) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,****26****to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Simple analogy but I hope you can relate to the simplicity of this simple visual.

When I was meditating on this verse, this Psalm came quickly to the forefront of my thoughts.

Psalm 34:8 NKJV

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;  
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

The impact of obtained or received resonated with the idea of tasting. I got this image of ingesting or making it part of you. To absorb it into your being makes it part of you. It is not something you observe or analyze but rather something that becomes part of you.

Cut the cake and distribute at will.

Have some of them taste the cake and swallow it. This represents obtaining, receiving, tasting, or ingesting.

Have some walk around showing off the piece of cake and talking about the ingredients as well as how good it tastes but they never eat any of it.

**Too many people intellectually know about God, faith, and the Bible but they have never truly made it personal. They have not tasted, obtained, received, or ingested to really make it part of who they are and who they are becoming.**

**Others have tasted, obtained, received, or ingested but they don't know a bunch of facts and information so they often feel like their faith is inferior or not of equal standing**.

**It is imperative that we understand this simple faith foundation as Peter is going deep in the coming verses on change as a lifestyle.**

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*6And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

Matthew 6:33 NIV

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

Have you really obtained, received, tasted, or ingested by His righteousness?

If not, you can make that choice today? Or repent and return to Him and His righteousness.