



# abc links

connecting personal and small group studies with this week's sermon

For the sermon on February 9-10, 2008

## this week's coreverse

*"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."*

2 Peter 1.3 NIV

## using abclinks

### Personal Bible Studies (inside pages)

- Personal studies explore Scripture passages related to this week's sermon. They are broken down into three or four days. Some days, you will simply read, meditate or think about a passage from scripture. Other days, you'll be asked to dig into a passage through reading, studying and answering questions.

### Small Group Discussion (back page)

- Small group questions that connect with the sermon and your personal Bible study. This series of questions acts as a funnel to help your group discussion flow in a purposeful point.
- If you are not in a small group, contact one of our small group staff members for more information on ABC Small Groups or go to [adabible.org](http://adabible.org)>ministries>small groups.

See [adabible.org](http://adabible.org) for abclinks archives.



## Part Two of a Seven Part Sermon Series

### "Everything You Need"

I knew it had to be done. When we bought our house, the inspector told us that our roof probably had five years left in it. Nine years later... perhaps it was time. I called Steven, a trusted friend and experienced roofer, to take a peek at the roof to see if I could squeeze one more year out my curling shingles. His assessment was, "You need to do it now! When do we start?" "What do you mean?" I said, "I haven't roofed in years." "I have!" he said, "We'll get it done right and you'll save a ton of money." Gratefully, I agreed. We grabbed some tape measures and a calculator and began to plan out the project.

Just before Labor Day, our family left for one more shot at a vacation before the kids started school. The roof project would await my return. Our vacation was awesome! My oldest daughter was starting college at Northern Michigan University and we had planned to spend several days hitting some of the best spots in the UP before we dropped her off. I couldn't think of a better way to send off our daughter to college. But... in the back of my mind, I knew my roof was waiting. Would the materials be there as promised? Would the weather hold up? Did Steven really know what he was talking about? Would I have enough help? Would there be damage under the shingles that needed to be fixed? Those questions began to gnaw at me the entire drive home.

Several hours later, we pulled into the driveway to see our house had been invaded. A huge dumpster was parked in the drive, shingle bundles were neatly placed on the roof, a skid of supplies was set at the foot of the ladder, compressors, nail guns, shingle strippers and every tool needed were out and ready to be used. Even better than all that, four guys, who I will always call friends, were on the roof tearing into my ratty shingles. Everything I needed to get this big job was there. The only thing lacking... was me. It was time for me to engage in this project.

A week later, I sat in the same spot in my driveway, exhausted, sunburned and filled with joy. The dumpster with all my shingles was gone, the soft spots in my roof were repaired, the new shingles were neatly installed, the tools had been put away and my friends had gone home. The job was done and it looked great. No more worries about ice jams and water damage. No more worries about how the job would be done. Turns out, I had everything I needed to finish a big job.

Have you ever been overwhelmed by the task of being like Jesus? It's a high standard and a huge task that has an enemy called sin. Peter used seven words to describe the areas where we need to grow; goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness and love. Got all those figured out yet? Me neither. But be encouraged by Peter's words, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness..." Everything? Really? Yes! God wants you to grow in these areas. By His power, the job can be done. It's time to get to work. You have everything you need!



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# personal bible studies

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Our study this week will be an overview of the passage from 2 Peter 1 that Pastor Manion and Pastor King are tackling in this series. In the weeks to come, we'll be breaking the passage down into bite size chunks. The overall theme is how people grow. Too often, we think of spiritual growth like physical growth; at some point we stop growing. When I was in college, I realized that 6'2" was the tallest I was going to be. I became content with that. We hit times in our spiritual walk where we stop growing. Unfortunately, we grow comfortable with that as well. Peter gives us a model in the opening portion of his letter for spiritual growth that could last a lifetime if we dedicate ourselves to it.

## dayone

### God's Provision for Growth

*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.*

2 Peter 1. 3-4

Before we explore these verses, it's important to remember that something has gone horribly wrong. Shortly after God created the first human beings to be in relationship with Him, Adam and Eve believed a lie from Satan and turned their back on God. Something was broken. Take a few minutes to read Genesis 2-3.

What were the effects of the fall? What was lost? What was broken?

Since then God has been moving to repair what was broken between humans and Himself. God's provision that Peter describes is available despite the effects of sin because He desires to restore His relationship with us. What provision for growth do you see promised in 2 Peter 1.3-4? What is the work of God as described here?

Underline the word "knowledge" in this verse. Knowledge in this context means "saving knowledge." In verse 6, the word is used again but the context has changed. Knowledge in verse 6 means "growing knowledge." What's the difference? What are the results of the "saving knowledge?"

Think about the phrase, "*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...*" What stands out to you in this phrase? Do you believe that you have everything? Are you growing or have you stopped? Think about why.

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# daytwo

## Our Dedication for Growth

*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.*  
2 Peter 1.5-7

In the upcoming weeks, we'll be spending significant time on each of these virtues. Peter gives us the indication that these virtues build on one another. God has provided everything for you to grow. The rest seems up to you. Think about your level of dedication toward growth. How would you rank yourself currently?

Underline, circle or highlight the ones that stand out to you today. Underline one or two that you'd say would be a challenge for you to grow in. Circle the ones that you feel are current strengths that you have.

End today's study in prayer. Ask God to give a complete understanding in how these virtues will play out in your life. Thank Him that He has given you everything you need to grow in each of these. Commit to Him your dedication to growth.

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# daythree

## Fruitfulness or Forgetfulness

*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.*  
2 Peter 1.8,9

These two verses contrast success with failure. What is promised to those you possess the virtues listed in verses 5-7?

After Peter lays out a beautiful model of Christian growth, he pauses to warn how someone would fail or stumble in this process. What reason does Peter give for why people fail to grow in this process? What have they forgotten? How would this affect their ability to grow?

What causes spiritual nearsightedness, blindness or forgetfulness? How does this happen?

Where are you right now? Can your life be described as fruitful or forgetful? Why?



# small group discussion



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## lean in

What is something (sports equipment, hobby supplies, talents, tools. etc.) that you have a lot of but you don't use very much? Tell the group why it remains idle so often?

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## lookdown

Week two of this series is an overview of the passage that will be explored over the next six weeks. Have someone read 2 Peter 1:3-9 aloud. Pastor Manion broke this passage down into three parts. Discuss each.

**God's Provision (v. 3-4)** Pull out and discuss the promises and provisions God offers in this passage. What are all the things that could be described as God's work?

**Our Dedication (v. 5-7)** Because of God's work, we have the opportunity to grow in some key character traits. List them. Why do you think they are listed as a progression? Do any of these virtues stand out to you? Why?

**Fruitfulness or Forgetfulness (v. 8-9)** - What are the results of growth? What are the reasons for failing to grow?

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## lookout

Do you think most people believe they have everything they need to be godly and productive? What do they think they are missing?

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## lookin

Do you truly believe that God has given you everything for life and godliness? If not, what seems to be lacking?

Peter says that we can participate in the divine nature. What is that? Discuss the divine power that's mentioned. How have you seen that power work in your life? How did you know it was God and your own effort?

Which virtues listed in vs. 5-7 are you most interested in exploring over the next few weeks? Which are you most hesitant to tackle? Why?

Discuss what it means to be fruitful in your spiritual journey. Discuss the enemies of being an effective and productive Jesus follower.

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## lookup

Spend a few minutes sharing your prayer requests and praying for each other. Ask God to rekindle your desire to grow. Pray for new insights through this series and pray for the courage to obey.

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discover  
more

You may want to pick up a book or two that can add insight to the subject of spiritual growth. Here are a few recommendations.

*The Life You Always Wanted* by John Ortberg

*Seismic Shifts* by Kevin Harney

*How People Grow* by Henry Cloud and John Townsend

For those looking for something highly cerebral, you may want to tackle,

*The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard



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