

The Process of Knowing God

2 Peter 1: 1-11 / April 10, 2021

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- a slave and
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AUDIENCE (1:1b)

- to those who have obtained a faith equal in value to ours
 - by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

THE PROCESS OF GOD'S WORK OF GRACE (1:2-4)

- May **grace and peace** be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
 - because his divine **power** has bestowed on us all things that are necessary for life and godliness,
 - through the **knowledge** of the one who called us by his own **glory and excellence of character**,
 - through which things he has bestowed on us his precious and very great **promises**,
 - so that through these you may become **sharers** of the divine nature after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire,

Glory and Excellence of God's Character

And Moses was a shepherd with the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the west of the desert, and he came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked, and there was the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not being consumed.

And Moses said, "Let me turn aside and see this great sight. Why does the bush not burn up?"

And Yahweh saw that he turned aside to see, and God called to him from the midst of the bush, and he said, "Moses, Moses."

And he said, "Here I am."

And he said, "**You must not come near to here. Take off your sandals from on your feet, because the place on which you are standing, it is holy ground.**"

And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

And Moses hid his face because he was afraid of looking at God. (Exodus 3:1-6, Lexham English Bible)

God's Grace and Peace

And Yahweh said, "Surely I have seen the misery of my people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry of distress because of their oppressors, **for I know their sufferings. And I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from this land to a good and wide land, to a land flowing with milk and honey**, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. And now, look, the cry of distress of the Israelites has come to me, and also I see the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. And now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh, and you must bring my people, the Israelites, out from Egypt." (Exodus 3:7-10, Lexham English Bible)

Knowledge of God's Name

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out from Egypt?"

And he said, "Because I am with you, and this will be the sign for you that I myself have sent you: When you bring the people out from Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "Look, if I go to the Israelites and I say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is his name?' then what shall I say to them?"

And God said to Moses, "**I am that I am.**"

And he said, "So you must say to the Israelites, 'I am sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:11-14, Lexham English Bible)

God's Promises

And God said again to Moses, "So you must say to the Israelites, '**Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is my remembrance from generation to generation.**'"

Go and gather the elders of Israel and say to them, '**Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, appeared to me, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**, saying, "I have carefully attended to you and what has been done to you in Egypt." (Exodus 3:15-16, Lexham English Bible)

Sharers of God's Nature by Escaping Corruption

And I said, "I will bring you up from the misery of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey." And they will listen to your voice, and you will go, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you will say to him, '**Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews has met with us**, and now let us please go on a journey of three days into the desert, and **let us sacrifice to Yahweh our God.**' (Exodus 3:15-18, Lexham English Bible)

God's Power Provides All Things

But I myself know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go unless compelled by a strong hand. And **I will stretch out my hand, and I will strike Egypt with all of my wonders that I will do in its midst**, and afterward he will release you.

And I will give this people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, and then when you go, you will not go empty-handed. And a woman will ask from her neighbor and from the woman dwelling as an alien in her house for objects of silver and objects of gold and garments, and you will put them on your sons and on your daughters; and you will plunder Egypt." (Exodus 3:19-22, Lexham English Bible)

And Moses answered, and he said, "And if they do not believe me and they do not listen to my voice, but they say, 'Yahweh did not appear to you?'"

And Yahweh said to him, "What is this in your hand?"

And he said, "A staff."

And he said, "Throw it onto the ground."

And **he threw it onto the ground, and it became a snake**, and Moses fled from it.

And Yahweh said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and grasp it by its tail"—" (And he reached out his hand and grabbed it, and it became a staff in his palm.)— "so that they may believe that Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, appeared to you, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

And Yahweh said to him again, "Put your hand into the fold of your garment." And he put his hand into the fold of his garment, and he took it out, and, to his surprise, his hand was afflicted with a skin disease, like snow.

And he said, "Return your hand to the fold of your garment."

And he returned his hand to the fold of his garment, and he took it out from the fold of his garment, and, to his surprise, it was restored like the rest of his body.

"And if they do not believe you and they will not listen to the voice of the former sign, then they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And if they also do not believe the second of these signs and they will not listen to your voice, then you must take water from the Nile and pour it onto the dry ground, and the water that you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground." (Exodus 3:19-4:9, Lexham English Bible)

God's Knowledge

And Moses said to Yahweh, "Please, Lord, I am not a man of words, neither recently nor in the past nor since your speaking to your servant, because I am heavy of mouth and of tongue."

And Yahweh said to him, "Who gave a mouth to humankind, or who makes mute or deaf or sighted or blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? So then go, and I myself will be with your mouth, and **I will teach you what you must speak.**"

And he said, "Please, Lord, do send anyone else whom you wish to send."

And Yahweh was angry with Moses and said, "Is there not Aaron your brother the Levite? I know that he certainly can speak, and also there he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will rejoice in his heart. And you will speak to him, and you will put words in his mouth, and I myself will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and **I will teach you what you must do.**

And he will speak for you to the people, and then he will be to you as a mouth, and you will be to him as a god. And you must take this staff in your hand, with which you will do the signs." (Exodus 4:10-17, Lexham English Bible)

and for this same reason, and by applying all diligence, supply with your

- **faith** excellence of (absolute trust, confidence)
- **character**, and with excellence of character, (moral excellence)
 - **knowledge**, and with knowledge, (understanding or familiarity)
 - **self-control**, and with self-control, (self-mastery, self-restraint)
 - **patient endurance**, and with patient endurance, (steadfast endurance)
 - **godliness**, and with godliness, (piety)
 - **brotherly love**, and with brotherly love, (love for people)
 - **love**. (love for God)

Examples of The Process of Building God’s Presence

	HEAVEN AND EARTH	ARK	NATION	TABERNACLE
1	Light	Flood announced	Blood	Tabernacle’s curtains
2	Expanse	Flood begins	Frogs	Ark of the covenant
3	Land and Plants	Flood last 40 days	Gnats	Table of Bread
4	Solar System	Flood ends and Ark on Mt.	Flies	Lampstand
5	Birds and Fish	Raven sent out after 40 days	Livestock	Altar of Incense
6	Animals and Humans	Dove sent out	Boils	Altar of burnt offering
7	Sabbath	Dove’s 2 nd flight after 7 days	Hail	Bronze basin
8		Dove’s 3 rd flight after 7 days	Locusts	Court of Tabernacle
9		Water recedes after 150 days	Darkness	Priestly garments
10		Noah leaves the ark	Death of firstborn	Tabernacle erected

The Balance of God’s Work of Grace and Christian’s Work of Faith

But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, and we being dead in trespasses, he made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved), and raised us together and seated us together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, in order that he might show in the coming ages the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; **it is not from works**, so that no one can boast.

For we are his creation, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, so that we may walk in them. (Ephesians 2:4-10, Lexham English Bible)

- For if these things are yours and are increasing,
 - this **does not make you useless or unproductive** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - For the one for whom these things are not present is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his former sins.
- Therefore, brothers, be zealous even more to **make your calling and election secure**,
 - because if you do these things, you will **never ever stumble**.
 - For in this way **entrance** into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ **will be richly** supplied for you.

Blind Knowledge of God

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses.

Therefore do and observe everything that they tell you, but do not do as they do, for they tell others to do something and do not do it themselves.

And they tie up heavy burdens and put them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing with their finger to move them.

And they do all their deeds in order to be seen by people, for they make their phylacteries broad and make their tassels long. And they love the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by people.

But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ because one is your teacher, and you are all brothers,
And do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your heavenly Father.
And do not be called teachers, because one is your teacher, the Christ.

And the greatest among you will be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

#1: “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites!—because you shut the kingdom of heaven before people! For you do not enter, nor permit those wanting to go in to enter.

#2: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites!—because you travel around the sea and the dry land to make one convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are!

#3: “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing! But whoever swears by the gold of the temple is bound by his oath.’

Fools and blind people! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that makes the gold holy? And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing! But whoever swears by the gift that is on it is bound by his oath.’

Blind people! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift holy? Therefore the one who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything that is on it. And the one who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. And the one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by the one who sits on it.

#4: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites!—because you pay a tenth of mint and dill and cumin, and neglect the more important matters of the law—justice and mercy and faithfulness! It was necessary to do these things while not neglecting those.

Blind guides who filter out a gnat and swallow a camel!

#5: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites!—because you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence!

Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

#6: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites!—because you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and of everything unclean! In the same way, on the outside you also appear righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

#7: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites!—because you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in the blood of the prophets!’ Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets! And you—fill up the measure of your fathers! Serpents! Offspring of vipers! How will you escape from the condemnation to hell? For this reason, behold, I am sending to you prophets and wise men and scribes. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues and will pursue from town to town, so that upon you will come all the righteous blood shed on the earth from the blood of righteous Abel up to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation! (Matthew 23:1-36, Lexham English Bible)