

Partakers of a Divine Nature

With Bishop Ronald K. Powell

Our Text:

2 Peter 1:4-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Fruitful Growth in the Faith

⁵But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I- The Bible Promises [Pardon](#) That [Converts](#)

“Repent . . . and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).

- God’s pardoning grace converts our will, ways, work, and walk.

“Old things are passed away” (2 Cor. 5:17).

- We must come to God just as we are in simple, trusting faith (**Eph. 2:8**).
- God’s amazing grace is sufficient to forgive all—adulterers, homosexuals, drug abusers—who repent and forsake their sins.

II- The Bible Promises [Purity](#) That [Cleanses](#)

“ . . . giving them the Holy Ghost . . . purifying their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:8, 9).

- Many Christians do not commit their will totally to God. They reserve a portion for selfish endeavor.
- When Christians totally surrender to God, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses their hearts (**see 1 John 1:7**).
- Cleansed Christians are filled with God’s love. They glorify him and are a blessing to others.

III- The Bible Promises [Peace](#) That [Calms](#)

“And the peace of God . . . shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

- Today’s world is searching desperately for peace, but to no avail. More conflict, stress, and strain abound than ever before.
- Peace can only be found in Jesus Christ. He promised,
- **“My peace I give unto you . . . let not your heart be troubled” (John 14:27).**

- Christ's peace calms those who trust in him. To have his peace, we must simply accept the peace that he gives.

IV- The Bible Promises [Power](#) That [Conquers](#)

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8).

- Spirit-filled Christians are endued with power for service.
- They are ready to comfort the lonely, assist the homeless, and witness for Christ.
- The Spirit-filled are diligent in prayer and Bible study.
- They are enabled to overcome trials, troubles, and tribulations, and to become victorious over sin, self, and Satan.

Conclusion:

- **"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).**
- **The Scripture promises: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors" (Rom. 8:37).**
- **"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to *be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV))**