

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 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. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. (2 Peter 1:1-11)*

Outsourcing is a term we hear a lot about these days. It's a term used when people are talking about the economy. Outsourcing is getting what's needed from other places in terms of goods or services. Some people say when we go to providers outside this country, jobs are lost and people suffer. Others say that it is good for the economy because we are forced to change. I'm no economics expert. But I cannot deny that I see the impact in the marketplace.

Sometimes it leads to downsizing. It's a helpless feeling to lose your job and become increasingly dependent on others for your survival. In God's spiritual economy, we can see some similarities. Some of our most painful times are when we come to a realization that we are totally helpless to manage our lives and must depend upon some outside source. It is in these times when we are forced to consider change. Change is often a painful thing.

When we consider the resources that we need to live godly lives, we can be encouraged that they are available. They can be found, but not in ourselves. But we must admit that need to God. When we admit that need, the Lord will show us His standard of godliness. Coming into the revealed knowledge of God in Christ Jesus, we can be assured that He offers forgiveness of our sin and a new way of living if we want it. Being born again, or born from above, gives us God's Spirit as the source of the power to change and be conformed to godliness. And, as the scripture today tells us, His divine power grants us everything we need to accomplish His purpose. Some thoughts on today's passage are worth thinking about.

**I. WE HAVE NO NATURAL RESOURCES FOR GODLY LIVING.** No natural ability of ours contributes to godliness. We cannot look good enough nor do good enough or have enough to develop a godly nature. We need resources outside of ourselves to be godly. We naturally have a human nature, and there's nothing godly about humanity without God.

**II. WE ARE GIVEN ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR LIVING GODLY LIVES.** God is the source of godliness. His nature has been given to us. His nature is a gift of grace. We can only accept it and can never earn it or repay Him for it. Nothing is lacking in our resource.

**III. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S TRUTH IS OUR GREATEST RESOURCE; OBEDIENCE IS OUR TOUGHEST CHALLENGE.** An obedient lifestyle to God's revealed truth is our contribution to living godly lives. Knowing and Doing what God says is our two part contribution to this partnership of godliness.

Trying to please God with a godly life without considering our help in Christ is like talking to an outsourced person in some distant call center who doesn't understand our need, or speak the same language. God is the One who understands we are broken, and in need of Him. Consider the Source. Trusting God is the goal of obedience.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam