

## *A Faith of Equal Standing Before God*

### *2 Peter 1:1-4*

*“To those who have received faith of the same kind as ours.” King James says “like precious faith.” Same kind, isotimos, equal in value, it means. It’s used in a political sense, it means equal in rank, equal in position, equal in honor, equal in standing, equal in price in the economic usage, equally valuable, equally precious, equally honored, equally privileged. So what he is saying here is we have all received the same precious, valuable, honored, ranking faith. The faith that we have is equally precious. The spiritual privileges that faith brings are equally precious. Listen to this: no first-class Christians, no second-class Christians. We both have the same faith. That’s what Galatians is really saying as Paul writes in Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female, for you’re all one in Christ Jesus.” You came in with an equally precious faith to equally precious privileges.” MacArthur*

- I. Peter’s second letter was written to the churches in Asia Minor to warn believers of Satan’s attempt to lead the church astray through false teachers. He exhorts us to be men and women of biblical understanding so that we can recognize, refute, and take our stand against them. Satan is a liar and a deceiver, which means that we must be able to see through his lies and deception. We do that best by knowing our salvation, i.e., knowing that we are truly saved, by having a knowledge of the Scriptures, i.e., knowing God and the truth we are to live by, and by knowing our standing before Him, i.e., holy and blameless in his sight (Eph. 1:4). Satan will have a very difficult time leading knowledgeable, Christ centered believers astray through false teachers.

2 Peter 1:1

Eph. 2:19-20

Luke 22:25-26

Rev. 22:3

**1 John 3:7-8** *7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

- II. The reason we have equal standing before **God our Savior Jesus Christ**, is because the faith necessary to believe and the righteousness necessary for salvation come from God alone. It is not based on our merit but on his grace. The precious faith he gives us to believe makes us equally precious to him, and the righteousness he gives all believers gives us equal standing before him because it's his righteousness. Consequently, there is no one more precious in his sight than another. The result is an abundance of grace and peace as we come to know him and the power of his resurrection more and more (Phil. 3:10).

2 Peter 1:1-2

Rom. 9:5

Titus 2:13

Heb. 1:8

Col. 2:6-10

Phil. 3:12

*ἰσότημος isótimos, equally precious, equally honoured, to be esteemed equal to*

*λαγχάνω lanchánō, to obtain by lot, to receive by divine allotment, obtain*

*"Knowing God is the means by which his grace and peace become large and powerful in our lives. If you want enjoy the aroma of his grace in the world, your knowledge of him has to grow. Piper*

**Eph. 2:8-9** *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

**Romans. 3:10-12** *As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

- III. Our God and Savior Jesus Christ drew us and saved us; he also gives us the power we need to participate in his divine nature so that we can escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. He has given us knowledge of his precious promises as well as everything we need for life and godliness, which means there is no excuse to keep us from making our calling and election sure so that we will never fall (2 Peter 1:10).

2 Peter 1:3-4

Phil. 2:12-13

James 2:18-19