

Himself; and that therefore, whatever our occupation, our primary calling in life is to know and love and serve Him with all of our being!

D. The fourth foundational gift of which Peter speaks is found in verse 1. Here we read:

"Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:"

God has given us the gift of saving faith in Christ, which faith was as precious to his readers as it was to Peter. In fact, in 1 Peter 1:7-9 Peter says that his readers' faith was "of greater worth than gold"; and that

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

What does saving faith provide for our spiritual life and godliness? Well, faith is the instrument God uses to unite us to Christ and to the benefits of His saving work. And when Peter speaks of "the salvation of your souls," he not only means deliverance from the penalty of sin, but also deliverance from the guilt of sin, the controlling power of sin, and the presence of sin.

Thus saving faith links us with the very provision that we need to sustain and nurture spiritual life and godliness. And not only is faith instrumental at the beginning of the Christian life; it is crucial to salvation all the way through the Christian life. Day by day, hour by hour, Christ is our Savior from sin and our leader toward godliness. He is the author and finisher of our faith and of the salvation that faith lays hold of!

E. The fifth foundational gift of which Peter speaks is mentioned in verse 2 and 3:

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 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.

God has given us the wonderful privilege of knowing Him personally. In verse 2