

Precious Faith

“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1).

Do you have a special treasure that no else possesses, a particular gift that was given to you by a particular person? Well, let me confess that I do! I have a Bible that no one else possesses, the Bible of my grandfather, Reverend Josiah Holbert. It is a wonderful treasure to me, not only because it was his Bible, but because his son, my uncle, and my friend, Reverend J. S. Holbert, Jr., gave it to me before his death.

Uncle Joe, as I knew him, gave me many wonderful gifts. In my early ministry, he gave me opportunities to preach. As a great storyteller, he gave me many stories to remember and share with others. On various occasions, when he knew that I had needs, he gave me money. The great library of books he gave me is mingled throughout my own library. I concede, however, that the most precious gift he gave me was my grandfather's Bible.

While the Lord has given us many great gifts, the gift of faith is a gift to be highly prized. For sure, we could have never tapped into the divine world apart from this wonderful grace. In these words, “precious faith,” we are confronted with the fourth time Simon Peter utilized the term “precious” in his writings. There are at least three truths set forth in these words and in the context in which they are found.

We are made aware of the allotment of precious faith! The meaning of the term “obtained” is “to receive by divine allotment.” Notice, the word is not attained, but “obtained.” This faith is not something for which we work, something that we can produce. This faith, saving faith, faith that believes on Jesus to the saving of the soul, is a gift from God. As is stated elsewhere, “it is given in behalf of Christ . . . to believe on Him” (Philippians 1:29).

We are made aware of the associations of precious faith! One who receives this divine allotment of faith is joined to a body of believers. Here, the Apostle speaks of “them that have obtained like precious faith.” The words “with us” also reveal that Simon Peter saw himself as a part of that believing body. To genuinely believe on the Lord Jesus is to associate with other believers. These words “like precious faith” indicate the common bond with Christians.

We are made aware of the ascent of precious faith! The word “through” is also rendered “with” and “by” in the New Testament. The basic truth set forth is that faith rises out of the righteousness of Christ. Justifying righteousness does not rise out of faith, but faith ascends out of justifying righteousness. Our salvation is not in faith itself, but is in the righteousness of Christ Himself. May our hearts appreciate the blessing of “Precious Faith.”