

THE APOSTLE PETER... who graduated in God's university  
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(2 Peter)

Simon Peter has always been one of the most attractive of the apostolic figures. In many senses he might be described as the Elijah of the New Testament, for one cannot read his story without feeling here is a man of like passions as we are. The big fisherman, as he has been called, alternately knew the depths of despair and the heights of joy. He seemed to be intensely human, and in spite of obvious deficiencies was used of God to strike the earliest blow against the powers of darkness. Perhaps the only school he attended was God's school; but a study of the second epistle of Peter will clearly reveal how he mastered his lessons and graduated from the classroom.

#### Standard One in the Knowledge of God

This is clearly set forth for us in 2 Peter 2 : 20, ". .. they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the, knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ . This is the first lesson taught in God's seminary. When a man enrolls as a student, he does so as a sinner. His coming to God admits of two things. First, the would-be student confesses that he has need to learn. Secondly, he expresses his faith that this, and only this, is the school where his needs can be met. Thus he escapes "the pollutions of the world." Many would call this experience "conversion," but whatever name might be given for the event, it is unquestionably the beginning of all the training given by the divine Master.

#### Standard Two in the Knowledge of God

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord" (2 Peter 1: 2). Peace comes through faith in the Lord Jesus. It is the inevitable result of our justification by faith (Rom. 5:1). Multiplied peace is a definite advance on peace, for the blessings experienced through salvation are increased a thousandfold as we advance in God's school. There we learn of the "exceeding great and precious promises the guarantee that in all the vicissitudes of life, God will be sufficient.

#### Standard Three in the Knowledge of God

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1: 3). The Christian student is now really beginning to make headway with his studies. Conversion leads first to consecration, and then to sanctification. Grace not only means salvation from the uttermost; it also introduces the convert to a greater aspect of the work of God. Man is saved to the uttermost. "All things that pertain unto life and godliness" are part of the equipment of the saint. Multiplied grace imparts the power which enables one to triumph over the power of inbred sin. The old man, with all the affections and lusts thereof, is crucified, and in place of the old interests comes a new life which is called godliness.

#### Standard Four in the Knowledge of God

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the

THE APOSTLE PETER... who graduated in God's university knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1: 8). During His great discourse about the Vine, the Lord Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit . . ." (John 15:7, 8). And, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5 : 22-23). It is a natural sequence that the fruit of a godly life will be followed by fruitful service.

Standard Five in the Knowledge of God

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). And so at the end of his great epistle Peter, as with the wave of a hand, indicates the limitless expanse of God's great world where, in practical experience, our spiritual education may be developed and advanced. The university of heaven is the greatest centre of learning in the world. There are no entrance exams., and no would-be scholar is ever turned away. The only condition for enrollment is that scholars should present their applications for admittance at Calvary.

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