

Jesus is Enough



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2nd Peter 1:3-4

As a kid, Aladdin was probably my favorite animated movie. I loved Aladdin. I watched it a bunch of times. I think the reason I loved Aladdin so much is I could imagine me as a boy walking into a cave of wonder and coming out with a lamp, that if I rubbed it, a genie popped out. That would be so cool, and I want the Robin Williams genie, right? He was just the best, unbelievable. I wanted him to come out, sing the song, do the thing, and then tell me, "Kory sir, you have three wishes." I just imagined what would I wish for as a kid, what would I want? What would I long for? What would I dream about? I had all sorts of different wishes that I would wish for, and man, if I just had those wishes answered my life would change. I even think about now, what if I had a lamp that I could rub and a genie popped out and said, "Hey, Mr. Kory sir, what three wishes do you want?" If I could wish for three things and get anything I wanted to, I could solve some issues with my life right now. I think my life would be dramatically better if I had the power of a genie and a lamp.

So before we get started, I want you to imagine if you somehow stumbled upon a lamp, you rubbed it, and a genie popped out and told you that you have three wishes—what would you wish for? Just think about that for a minute. What would you wish for? What would be something that you

would really change your life? If you just had *this*, everything would be okay. What would be that thing you'd want? You notice how, how we pretty much all had a wish, right? I don't know about you, but I would probably wish for a lot of money. That would be great because when I look at a bank account, it's just sad. A bunch of money would be really great and I could get a lot of stuff. If you've seen my truck, it's old and there are a lot of miles on it, and I don't know when it's not going to make it here. But man, if I just had unlimited money, that would be awesome. That would really save a lot with my life. Maybe you have different wishes. Maybe it is for health, or there's a thing that's happened in your life and if you could remove it, things would be better. Maybe it is the perfect career, the perfect business, the perfect house. You could just wish for it and it would happen, and then you would think, man, I have life made now!

What Peter wants us to understand this morning is we don't have to wait for a magic lamp to get life figured out; we actually have everything we need right now to live a life and to pursue godliness. Everything we need and everything we have is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, you have all you need. Jesus is enough. He really is. I know some of you might think *if I just had...or if I just could...*well, those are all probably good and helpful things, but they're accessories, they're not the main thing. What you need more than anything is the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have Him, you have everything you need to live your life and to pursue godliness. He really is enough. Let's read what the text actually says so you know I'm not making this up. I also want to read verse 2 for context.

Scripture

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power [which probably means Jesus] has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."

So to summarize that paragraph, I think what Peter is saying is that by knowing and trusting in Jesus, you have all that you need to live your life. By trusting and knowing Jesus we see we have those resources, and we actually share in His divine nature and we escape the world, the sinful world that we inhabit. So Christ really is enough. Now, I want to point out just a few strange terms Peter uses before we go line by line through this text. That would be divine power and divine nature. Now, why does he say that instead of God's power and God's nature? Why does he use the word divine? In fact, of the New Testament writers, Paul is the only other one who talks about God as the divine instead of just saying God or Jesus, and he does it in Acts 17 when he is at Mars Hill. He's at the Areopagus and all these people are coming, and they're all Greek, they're all the Hellenistic culture, so they believe in all the divine spirits and all the divine gods. They have a plethora of gods. Paul stands up and says look, don't imagine the divine is made of gold or an image that you put in a temple. He's trying to show God is more than the idols that they worship, and he uses that word, divine, to connect to the Greek culture that he's speaking to.

Here, Peter uses that same language, divine power and divine nature. I think he's connecting to his listeners, to the culture that they live in, which is a Hellenistic culture. So they're a Greek culture and they believe in all of the gods, many gods. If you read through Acts, you know that when you get to Greek culture, people are chasing idols, they're going to temples, and they're trying to worship the divine and get power from the divine, but the divine is a lot of different things. There are a lot of divines because there's a lot of gods. I think what Peter is doing is saying that as a people living in that culture, they are seeking how to find life, how to find the godlike life through all of these gods. They're seeking it in all these different places, in all these divine expressions; they're seeking it in the gods. Peter is coming in and saying the place you're looking, it's the wrong place. It's not in all of the gods, it's in the one true God, and His name is Jesus Christ. That in Christ, in His power, in His nature you can have life, you can have the godlike life. Peter's trying to say what you're looking for is actually found in Christ. Christ is actually enough. Christ is where true life, abundant life, the godlike life is actually found.

I think the same is true for our culture. We can look around to all sorts of places to find life and to find the Godlike life. We look at all sorts of different places and all sorts of different things. It might not be a temple, it might not be an idol, but maybe it's our political structure. Maybe we get really into politics. We love politics, and politics is a good thing; we need it to govern and to survive. But it can become a Godlike thing where we believe if we have the right political structure then we will have true life. Therefore, life is based on the political structure, and who wins and who loses is where true life is found. Or maybe it's just in the self-help gurus. We listen to all sorts of podcasts, we read all sorts of books, looking at all sources of self-help. It's like if I can just get the right thing, if I can go to the right therapy, get the right thoughts, get the right mindfulness, get the right yoga practice, go to the right place—if I can go to the Holy Land and see where Jesus was, then somehow I will have life in godliness. I'll have enough if I just get that other thing.

Peter wants to remind us that true life and godliness is found in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in Christ you have all that you need to live your life and to live a life of godliness. So it's drawing us back to the reality that Christ really is enough. I want to show you how that is true and why that is possible. Let's look in verse 3 to see we have all we need in Christ, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness..." Again, Peter's just talked about Jesus being our Lord and God and the knowledge of Jesus, and now he says "His power," so most scholars agree that he's talking about Jesus here. This is Jesus' power has granted or bestowed on us *all* things. What does all include? All means everything. Look, there's nothing outside of *all*. If Jesus says by my power, you have all things, then guess what friends...you have all things. There's nothing outside of all things. You have all things for your life. And to live a life of godliness, you have those things in the Lord Jesus Christ. So He's bestowed on us, He's given to us, by His power, all things that pertain to our lives and our pursuit of godliness.

Notice it's by Jesus' divine power. So the first question is what is His power like? I mean, what is the power of Jesus like? I was putting my kids to bed this week and I was reading Mark chapter 2 to them. I'm really just trying

to put them to bed if I'm honest...we'll just read the Bible and they'll go to sleep. So I'm reading Mark chapter 2 and I'm laying with one of my kids. Now, this particular kid doesn't let me use them in sermons, so I won't use their name, but it's just one of my kids that I'm lying beside and I'm reading about the friends taking the roof off of a house and putting a paralyzed man down and Jesus healing him, and then he gets up and walks out. Now, I'm yawning just anticipating my kids falling asleep, but the child beside me taps on my shoulder and says, "Daddy, isn't it amazing that Jesus heals people?" I'm like, "Wow, yeah, that is amazing!" My child with just wonder eyes, wide open eyes, we had a conversation about Jesus having the power to heal paralyzed people. That's astonishing. That's mind blowing! Here my eyes are looking at Jesus like, oh yeah He just healed a paralyzed guy and raised a guy from the dead, but to a child, re-hearing that with wonder and amazement...I'm just wondering if we perhaps lose our wonder and amazement about Jesus. We read, like, oh yeah, He calms the storm.

Have you watched a storm lately? Like yesterday, praise the Lord, storms came. I love storms. So as soon as the storm happened I went out on my porch and I sat in my rocking chair with my Bible, and I'm just watching. I've got a great view when storms are at my house. I can see the clouds roll in. I can hear the thunder and see the lightning, the wind, and the trees blowing stuff all over my yard. And I'm just like yeah, this is awesome (Katie's panicking, I'm excited)! There's no power like you have in the middle of a storm. You realize that you are insignificant, you are little, you can't do anything, but then you realize God is actually the power source behind storms! And He is the one who can calm storms! Jesus, with one word, could say hey, cut it out, and the storm would cease and the sun would come out! That's the power of Jesus, the power of Jesus to raise people from the dead, to heal the paralyzed, to calm storms.

Peter says by His divine power we have been granted to us all things pertaining to life and godliness. I mean, let's be honest, that's better than a guy in a lamp that gives you three wishes and no more, right? This is more power. This is better power. Peter is saying in Christ, you really do have all you need for life and for godliness. But see, sometimes we forget

that and we think the gospel is a really small thing. Like the gospel is that thing I believed—oh yeah, Jesus died for my sins, I repented and believed, now I'm forgiven and I'm going to go to Heaven one day—but now, from here to there, I have to figure all of this life stuff out. Do you know what Peter's saying? Jesus is not just the one who saved you from your sins; He is the one that is figuring the life stuff out with you. He is the source of not just your salvation; He is the source of your very life. I mean, think of what the Bible would say about Jesus. Paul would say in Colossians chapter 1, verse 15, that He's the image of God and that through Him all things were created, and then he lists thrones, dominions, powers, authorities, all of these things that we think are the most powerful. Paul's like, um...Jesus created all those, they were all made through Him so He's way more powerful. Paul goes on to say, and in Him, all things hold together. In other words, He actually sustains all things, like the mountains and the seas. Both of those things exist and hold together because of the power of Jesus Christ. Peter's saying that same power is what's keeping your life and sustaining your life, and He is the resource for you to live your life.

But see, so many times we turn to other things. Now, it's okay to turn to other things to help with life. We need other things to help with life. We need good friendship to help with life. We need a job versus not a job. We need some very practical things. You might get in a mess and need some counseling or some therapy. You might need some resources to help untangle life. But we can't forget that none of those things is our source of life; it is the Lord Jesus Christ who is granting us, bestowing on us, the very power to get through our lives. So don't run to something else, run to Jesus. I was watching the Vandy football game, it might be the only Vandy football game I've watched, but it was the only one on last night. They were interviewing the Vandy coach and they said, "What would be your perfect day?" He said, "Well actually, if I were honest, I would get to my office at 4:00 AM, because I need to belong to myself before I can belong to others." I thought, oh man that's good. Marty McGee and the crew said oh, that's good, and they were writing this down. I'm thinking okay, on Monday at 4:00 AM I'm getting to the office, I'm belonging to myself before I belong to others, this is going to change my life, this is a new hack I've found it; this is going to be awesome. And then I'm like, what? What

the heck does it mean to belong to myself before I belong to others? I don't know what that means, but it sounds good and it feels good and my whole life is going to be solved by 4:00 AM getting to the office! Do you know what I'm probably going to do? Just take a nap on my desk. It's not going to help all; it's not going to solve my problems. I'm always looking for hacks. I'm always looking for the next thing. And here, Peter is saying...*Dear Kory, everything you need is in Christ! How about you pursue Him, know Him, and trust Him and He is the one whom your life is going to be lived through.* We have all the things we need, church, in Christ to pursue life and godliness. See, even godliness, we think if I can just go to that conference, man, I'll grow closer to Jesus. If I can just read that book, if I can do that Bible study, if I can go walk in Jerusalem and see where Jesus walked, if I can touch the sand that Jesus touched, I will be holy. Peter's saying nope, you got everything you need right now. You have everything you need in Christ right now. Those things can help—seeing the Holy Land can certainly help, but it's not going to do the trick, only Jesus can. Friends, we have all we need in Christ.

Why is that true? How does that work? How do we access this “all things” in life? We're going to see it's by knowing Jesus and trusting Jesus. So point number two is going to be this, we have all things by knowing Jesus. Notice he says “through the knowledge.” We get all these things “through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence.” So how do we figure out life? How do we figure out godliness? How do we figure out how to live and have abundant life? It's by knowing Jesus. Notice how it first comes—by knowing the one who called us to Himself. See, the first way we get to know Jesus is by Him calling us into salvation. In your life, He actually calls you to Himself, and when He calls you to Himself, He reveals who He really is. See, I grew up in this church, heard tons of sermons, went to tons of Sunday school classes, all sorts of mission trips, all sorts of conferences, so my whole life I knew some things about Jesus. I knew that He was Lord and I knew that He was Savior. So I said some words and I thought I was going to Heaven and that was my relationship with the Lord. But when I got to college in my freshman year, the Lord actually called me to Himself. What that meant is He opened my eyes to first see my sin and lostness.

And then secondly, the Lord opened my eyes to see who Jesus is. He is the glorious one. He is the excellent one. That's what it tells us in the text—He calls us to Himself and who is He—He's glorious and He's excellent. In other words, Peter's saying, when God calls you to Jesus, you see Jesus for who He really is. He's not just a Lord and Savior, though He certainly is. But some of us have Jesus as our Lord and Savior and we can yawn at those words, because it really doesn't mean anything to us. It's like, He saved me for my sins, I'm supposed to follow Him, and I'm going to go to Heaven one day, but right now I'm sort of doing my own thing because the best thing on earth is golf. Peter's trying to say when Jesus calls you to Himself, the best thing in the planet, the best thing in the galaxy, the best thing in the whole universe is Jesus! He is glorious and He is excellent, and when you see Him, He won't just be Lord and Savior, He'll be Lord, Savior, and treasure, and he'll be the best thing that you've ever experienced. He will be the one whom you see is most beautiful, most lovely, and most desirable. So when your eyes are open to see your sin and His beauty and His glory, you automatically say yes to Him and no to your whole life. You say I don't want my sin, I don't want my life anymore; I want King Jesus because I see that He is glorious, that He is better than everything I have and everything that I am. You see Jesus for who He is, glorious and excellent.

See, we get all things in life and godliness through the knowledge of Jesus. He first called us to Himself. He is the glorious and the excellent one, and we see Him as glory and excellent. We are drawn to Him. So do you know what we want to do? We want to know him more because we love Him more than anything else. Do you know what happens when you pursue the Lord? When you pursue knowing God and knowing God more, God becomes more glorious to you and more excellent to you. Do you know why? Because you don't know God completely yet, and you'll spend all of eternity, if you're a Christian, knowing more and more about God. Every single moment you will find Him more lovely, more excellent, and more glorious. You'll never be bored of God. God will always be more than you could ever imagine and more than you ever expected. You'll be drawn after Him and drawn into Him. And it is by knowledge of Him that you see Him and you interpret life in godliness. As you know Him, you become like Him.

But notice we don't only just know Jesus, but also we trust Him. So point number three is we have all things by trusting Jesus. Notice what it says in verse 4, "...by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises." What is "by which" referring to? Is it the power of Jesus, the calling of Jesus, the knowledge of Jesus? I think most likely He's referring to the knowledge of Jesus. In other words, by knowing Jesus, He grants us His very precious and great promises. As we know Him, we begin to understand His promises, we claim His promises, and in His promises, we're going to see in a moment that we share in His divine nature. But let's just think about what Peter says about the promises of God. He says they are great and they're very precious. I love what Spurgeon says about this. He says, "You know, it's very rare for something to be great and also precious." Usually those two don't go together. For instance, a mountain is great. If you see a mountain, you can think that mountain is great...look how big it is. That is a great mountain, but it's not precious. You can take a shovel and dig and nobody's going to care. It's a mountain. But if you have gold in your hand, gold is not great it's precious. Some of you have it around your neck and in your ears. Gold is little, it's tiny, it's precious, it's valuable, but it's not great. So could you imagine a mountain that's made of gold? That would be great and precious. Or a mountain made of diamond? It's just a big mountain that's a diamond. That would be great and precious. See, we typically don't have things that are both great and precious. We have things that are precious and they're really small, and things that are great and really big that we can bulldoze, and it's fine. But here, Peter says the promises of God are both great and precious. They're big. They're giant size. They're more than you could ever handle, and they're also valuable. They're more valuable than gold and silver and diamonds. They are both great and they are precious.

Let's just think about some of the promises of God. I love what 2nd Corinthians says. Paul says in that letter that all the promises of God find their yes and amen in Jesus. Every promise of the Bible, when you find one, the answer is Jesus. It's yes and amen in the Lord Jesus. So when you track through those salvation promises, starting in the garden when we fell and God goes to Satan and says I promise that I'm going to send a son from the woman to crush your head—that's a promise that finds its yes

and amen in the Lord Jesus Christ. When God comes to Abraham and says in you all the nations of the earth are going to be blessed, the yes and amen is in Jesus. Jesus is the one who blesses all of the nations. We find in Ezekiel that promise, God says I'm going to take out your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I'm going to put my Spirit within you. You'll be new people; you'll rise from death to life. That finds its yes in the work of Jesus Christ who makes us into new creatures. These promises Jesus gives us, whoever believes in me will not perish but have everlasting life, that's a promise that gets yes in Jesus. We see all the way through, when Jesus says I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you—do you know why that's true? Because Jesus lives forever and Jesus is faithful forever. When He says if I began a good work in you, I will see it to completion. That's a promise that says yes and amen in the Lord Jesus Christ. These are promises that are both great and precious, they're big, and they're worth more than anything. They're great and precious. One of the promises we see that Peter really deals with is in this letter in chapter 2. The heretics are denying the promise that Jesus is coming back. They're saying it's been several years and Jesus hasn't come back. He must be slow; He must not be coming. So not only do we have salvation promises, but we have promises that Christ is going to come back. And one of the things that he would allude to here is because of the promise that Christ is coming back, His promises are how you're getting through life and godliness. It's by looking to Him and seeing Him and claiming those beautiful promises. It is through the promises that that we are trusting in the Lord.

We find next in verse 4 that it's through His promises we share life in God. So, by believing in Him—that's knowing Him and trusting Him—we have all things pertaining to life and godliness, and it's through His promises we actually share life with God. Listen to this explosive statement; nobody else in your testament says anything quite like this. This is Peter being like...*Are you sure about that? Okay, we'll roll with it.* Here's what Peter says, "So that through them [that's through the promises] you may become partakers of the divine nature." What does that mean? I've had all week to chew on that. What does it mean that we are partakers of the divine nature? If this were like an iceberg, I think I've scratched about a centimeter off the top of it. What does that mean? I'm not even sure, but it

does mean something. It means something pretty radical to think that because you know God and trust God, and you're holding to His promises, that you've been made a partaker of the divine nature. What does that mean? It means you share life with God now. Now of course, what it doesn't mean is that you become gods. That's not what Peter says. He doesn't say because of the promises you *become* a divine nature. He says you *partake*, you *share*, in the divine nature. This is not we become gods, but it is certainly that we become like God. It's part of the good news about the gospel that we become like God.

I love what Irenaeus of Lyons, one of the early church fathers in the second century says. He says, "He became what we are so that we might become what He is." That was the incarnation—Jesus became a man, lived the life that we couldn't, died the death we deserve so that by faith we can become what He is. Not meaning we can become a god, meaning we can become godly, we can share His love, those attributes of God that are accessible to us. We now share in those so we can love like God, we can forgive like God, we can give grace like God, and we can empathize like God. In sharing in the divine nature, we become like God. I mean, think about what Paul says in Romans 8. He says that we have the Holy Spirit living in us. God has put His Spirit within us. I think that's part of that we partake in the divine nature; we have God living inside of us, which should change us from the inside out. Not only that, but if you look at 1st John, he says, when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him. So we have the Spirit in us right now making us like the Lord, and when we see Jesus, we will at once be like Him. We won't be a god; we will be perfect like He is perfect. We will be sinless at that moment when He comes back. We're not sinless now, we still struggle, and we still war, but when Christ comes back, we will be sinless.

So what's the application? Right now, as we share in this divine nature, we should be becoming more and more like God. So in your own life, can you say that when you look at your life and how it's progressing, are you becoming more and more like God? Are you becoming more and more like the Lord Jesus in the way you love, the way you speak, the way you spend your time, the way you use your talents, the way you spend your

treasures, the way you interact with people? Would your spouse say you are becoming more and more like Jesus the longer they're married to you? Would your kids say they can see the Lord Jesus working in you and through you? Are you a better mom and dad because you're more like Christ? If you're a child in the faith, can your parents say that over the time that you've known Jesus, they can see little wins in your life? You're not perfect; you're far from it. But can they see that you're becoming more and more like Jesus? That should be happening to all of us. When we cling to the promises of God and when we know God, we become like God because the promise is He's coming back; therefore, we're living forward. We're living for that reality. And living forward means we don't live for right now, we don't live for just this world in just this moment, in just our pleasures; we live for God. And in living for God, we become more like God. That should be the story of our lives, that we're becoming more and more like God.

And notice in God we escape the sinful world. Notice what Peter says in verse 4. He connects it. He says, "...having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desires." He's saying because of these promises we share life with God, and if we share life with God, if we partake in His divine nature, then it also means that we have escaped the sinful world that we inhabit. We've escaped it. I love that word escape. You were imprisoned, you were locked up, and somebody came and opened the door of the prison and you got to walk out. You got to escape. Now you're running away from who you used to be into something new and different. You are leaving your cell and you're going to belong to another who is the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a picture of you once shackled in sin, shackled in your own desires, in your own flesh, doing the things that you wanted to do and feeling so free in doing those. But you know what? Your freedom led you to guilt, shame, despair. They were chains. All of a sudden when you met Jesus, He forgave your sin. He washed your guilt and shame, and those chains on your arms fell off. You got to walk away from your sin. You got to walk away from the world that is being corrupted through sinful desires. You got to escape. You got to leave. You got to have new and fresh life with God. Now you're sharing in a God kind of life. And notice the world—it's faced corruption. Now, we have to make sure we

understand the world is not bad. God created the world and He created it good. God has a plan for the world and it's not to blow it up; it's to refashion it into a new earth that we're going to dwell in forever. We're going to talk about that in chapter 3 a lot. But the world right now, it is corrupt. It's been corrupted by sinful desires. Adam and Eve said no to God and yes to them, and we've done the same thing all the way through. We are living out our own selfish desires and the world is broken. We are under the fall; we are under the curse. But those who know Jesus, those who trust Jesus, they've escaped that prison sentence and now they're sharing life with God. Therefore, they're turning their backs to the sinful world, not to the world, but to the sinful world, to their sinful desires.

So I would just ask you, do you find that day by day, week by week, and month by month, you are putting to death the deeds of your flesh? Are you are saying no to sin and yes to God? We're not perfect people, but we should be pursuing the one who is perfect, and in doing so, we should be killing our sin and pursuing a life in Christ. We should be becoming more Christlike as we walk forward. So is that you? Can you honestly say...I've walked out of my cell and I'm now linked to Jesus? And as I walk with Jesus, I'm escaping more and more the sinful tendencies of my own desires that are corrupt because of sin. And I'm pursuing a new life in God, a life of holiness and a life of goodness....is that happening in your life? Because here's what Peter is trying to get us to see—in Christ, you really have all you need. You really have enough in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, are there going to be other things that that are going to help out your life? Absolutely. You're going to use all sorts of different resources, but you can't forget what the resource is...that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one that you need and He is the only one you ultimately need to live both a life and to pursue godliness. It's about the Lord.

So, how do we figure out living a life and pursuing godliness? It's in knowing Jesus and trusting His promises. As we know Him and trust Him, we will share a life in Him, and in sharing a life in Him, we say no to the sinful life of this world and we grow more and more like Christ and less and less like the world. Now, next week we're going to look at verse 5. It says supplement your faith with virtue. In other words, Christ is all you need.

But when you have Christ, who's all you need, then you now pursue in real time, in your effort you add to this faith, virtue. In other words, you lean into the life God has called you to live. This Sunday was God's work in your life and godliness. Next Sunday is how you participate in that work that God is doing so that you grow in both life and godliness.

See, I think our fascination with Aladdin is if that were actually real, that would be really cool. If we had a genie, three wishes and we could just wish them away, it would be amazing, right? I think all of us in the back of our mind think if I could have just one wish that could solve this one problem that I'm dealing with, my life and godliness would excel. And Peter's saying you don't need a lamp and you don't need a genie. Even the genie proves that. Everyone who has a genie, what do they always ask for? Another wish. Even three's not going to get it; you always need more. So the story of Aladdin is about a boy who thought he didn't have enough, so he went to a lamp to get enough, and then realized at the end he was actually enough all along. Well, that's the Disney gospel; it's not the gospel. You're *not* enough all along. You're actually very faulty and very needy. It's not just realizing you don't need a lamp because you have the power within yourself. You don't. You are very broken and very marred. You don't need a lamp; you need a Savior and His name is Jesus. That's who you need. You need Him to call you to His glory and His excellence. And in seeing Him, you run to Him. When you run to Him, you enter a relationship of knowing Him and trusting Him. And the more you know Him and the more you trust Him, the more you share life in Him, and the more you'll say no to the sinful life all around you because you're going to a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness will dwell forever.