

## THE DIVINE POWER & NATURE OF GOD

By Paul M Hanssen

### **2 Peter 1:3-4**

*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**: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*His **divine power** 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. (2 Peter 1: ESV)*

### **GLORY & EXCELLENCE:**

Before we look at the essence of what Peter is teaching here, let's stop and see what we have been called unto - **God's glory and excellence** (virtue).

- **GLORY** = the weight of God's presence, and His splendor, honor, and majesty.
- **EXCELLENCE** = virtue, strength to bear and uphold, the quality of being outstanding, honorable, valuable, precious, and rare. It also means to tower above and to be suitable and proper.

Most people desire the glory; they want to feel, experience, and bask in God's unmatched divine glory presence. Many have traveled miles, crossing oceans, land, and air to witness the majesty of God's supernatural splendor. Multitudes have run to and fro throughout the earth in search of an encounter with God's glory. However, few, and I repeat, few, are willing to pay the same price to develop and adopt the virtue of God's excellence.

God is not only full of glory, but He is also full of excellence:

- Job 37:23 - God is excellent in power

- Psalm 8:1.9 - His name is excellent
- Psalm 36:7 - His lovingkindness is excellent
- Psalm 76:4 - God Himself is excellent
- Psalm 150:2 - God's greatness is excellent
- Isaiah 12:5, 28:29 - God's works are excellent

Excellence conveys the message of that which is *above and beyond*; it demonstrates valor, virtue (being a quality of high moral standards), and strength. Excellence is *outstanding and conspicuous*. Excellence does not bow to carnal desires, nor does it shy away from difficulty. *Excellence rises above threat, fear, obstacle, and opposition.*

Daniel was a man who possessed and exhibited “an excellent spirit.”

*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. (Daniel 6:3)*

Daniel was endowed with tremendous spiritual gifts, possessing insight, discernment, and prophetic vision. But all of that could not be compared to his *excellent spirit*. When his walk with God was threatened by a decree to throw anyone to the lions who prays to any other apart from King Darius himself, Daniel, with his excellent spirit, upped his game. He opened his window and openly prayed three times a day. Daniel went beyond; he exhibited strength, he stood tall, he screamed his stand (as it were), and his excellent spirit made him outstanding and conspicuous.

Many people possess gifts, talents, abilities, knowledge, and the “power” of God, so-called, but they lack excellence. Even though governors, magistrates, and rulers in Daniel’s day recognized his gifts and mantle, what caused them to trust him was his excellent spirit.

Have you adopted the excellence hidden within the glory of God?

Over my years of ministry, I've learned to approach people cautiously because I often don't know who I will meet. Sometimes you encounter the “sweet person,” other times the “hostile person,” and occasionally the “mean-spirited

person.” This is the sad truth among Christians. We can dive into deep revelation, but that revelation doesn’t penetrate us. We can display incredible gifts and power of the Spirit, but that same power doesn’t always work in us. **We lack excellence!**

## 1. DIVINE POWER:

DIVINE means of, from, or like God - godly, supreme Divinity.

**God’s divine power** has given us everything needed to successfully walk in life and godliness. Within **His divine power** is also given ***exceeding great (the highest, and mightiest) and precious promises (valuable, honored, and esteemed)***. Most of us live our lives void of God’s power without considering His exceeding great and precious promises.

What is this power? God has different kinds and dimensions of power revealed through the manifestations of His presence and glory. His power is sevenfold, with streams and rivers that flow from the seven dimensions of power.

- **KO’-AKH** - force, vigor, to produce, fruitful, substance, wealth

*POWER TO PRODUCE - POWER PERFORMING SIGNS AND WONDERS - TO MOVE FORWARD - CREATIVE POWER*

*This is the power God demonstrated in Egypt when He delivered Israel*

- **OZE** - might, majesty, strength, bold, to prevail

*THRONE & KINGSHIP POWER (The Ark was called “The Ark of Thy strength - oze - Psalm 132:8).*

- **TAH-ATS-OO-MAW** - collective might, numerous

*THIS IS A POWER CONTAINING COLLECTIVE STRENGTH & POWERS - more than a single dimension of power all in one (Psalm 68:35)*

- **ZER-O’-AH** - the arm as outstretched, help, to conceive seed, to bear fruit

*THE STRENGTH OF GOD'S OUTSTRETCHED RIGHT ARM - (His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him the victory - Psalm 98:1) The Son, His only begotten seed, is the Father's right arm.*

- **KHAH-YIL** - military strength, valor, virtue, host

*GOD'S MILITARY POWER REVEALED THROUGH HIS WARRIORS*

- **MEM-SHAW-LAW** - ruling power, dominion, government, to reign

*GOD'S GOVERNING, RULING, REIGNING, AND DOMINION POWER*

- **GHEB-OO-RAW'** - victory, strength, warrior, champion, valiant

*GOD IS GIRDED WITH THIS POWER - IT IS HIS OVERCOMING POWER AND MATCHLESS STRENGTH IN WAR - His war garments of power*

As you can see, God possesses a multifaceted array of powers. How often do we pause and reflect on God's power—the God we serve, love, and revere—and yet, we diminish or limit His ability to work in our lives because of our lack of faith, obedience, and trust in Him.

*Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. (Psalm 78:41) (Limited = to mark out a place, set a mark)*

Israel limited God by placing Him in a box (as it were) within the confines of man's carnal reasoning - in other words, "God, I can't see you being able to do more than this." We limit God by lacking faith in His great and precious promises.

**The Divine Power spoken of in 2 Peter 1 is God's GHEB-OO-RAW power!**

***I will go in the strength (Gheb-oo-raw) of the LORD God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. (Psalm 71:16)***

Psalm 71 was written by King David during his old age, possibly in response to Absalom's rebellion. The Psalm expresses David's trust in God's protection and deliverance, particularly as he faces the challenges and vulnerabilities that come with growing older.

This aspect of God's power is what provides us with everything we need to walk in His lively and holy life, even when facing opposition, uncertainty, fears, and rejection — we can rely on the strength and power of the Lord and solely confess His righteousness!

His Divine overcoming, prevailing, champion, warrior power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness. His power has opened for us the ability to walk in the life and godliness of God, calling us to glory and virtue (excellence).

**So, where does God's power lead?** What do God's promises look like? Are the power and precious promises given to us meant to be squandered on our personal desires, fantasies, lusts, and self-will? Are they given to us to make us great, well-known, self-proclaimed messiahs (anointed ones), powerful, or to create an exclusive sect of Pharisees? Are the promises and power of God intended for self-elevation and exaltation? No. Life and godliness are the fruits of God's Divine Power. **Moreover, His power leads us to be partakers of His Divine Nature.**

## 2. DIVINE NATURE:

**God's divine power leads us to be** associated with **God's divine nature.** Partaking of God's divine nature, or adopting His nature, character, image, and likeness as our own, encapsulates the fruitfulness of the knowledge of Christ Jesus sown within us (or the knowledge of the Truth). **GOD'S DIVINE NATURE!**

Throughout my entire ministry, I have encountered men and women who love to reveal their knowledge. However, the knowledge they profess to know is not visible in their lifestyle, behavior, mannerisms, or moral conduct. Instead, they love to “share” and boast about the greatness of their revelations by teaching or by arguing with others. It's a sickening spirit.

God's divine power is the supreme power of God infused with His nature and character. His divine power leads us to the adoption, or to become partakers, of His divine nature.

I don't know if any of you have noticed, but often the groups of believers who major on the "deep" mysteries of God's Word and profess to have something others don't have are frequently the most arrogant people on the planet. They exhibit an ugly attitude toward those who do not see as they see, walk as they walk, believe as they believe, or fellowship where they fellowship. They pride themselves on speaking a unique and different language from other believers. This is the definition of a Pharisee (separatist). They profess to possess the "divine power of God," but they deny the divine character and nature of that power. You can't trust them or depend on them, as they are unstable in character, ugly in nature, short-fused, and lacking temperance. Something is missing in their development. What is it? Christlikeness!

Two things stand out in 2 Peter 1:3-4 that reveal the divine: **divine power and divine nature**. Many want the power, but they don't like its nature. However, you cannot have one without the other. God's power has a nature to it. It's not just an energy; it is the DNA of God. It operates through specific channels, following a pattern and blueprint, and possesses character and purpose. All forms of power and energy work within specific definitions and frameworks. **Similarly, the divine power of God possesses a divine nature. God's power is given to us first and foremost to transform us into the likeness and image of HIMSELF!**

*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8)*

### 3. BARRENNESS:

There is an epidemic (a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease) within the body of Christ. It is called BARRENNESS! The word barren is frequently used in relation to land that does not produce anything from the seed sown into it. It means void of life, empty, unproductive, and yielding no results.

Within the people of God, barrenness is caused by a disease that has and is, causing the "knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" to produce thorn trees, thistles, briars, and wild grapes in the form of **spiritual pride, haughtiness, arrogance, rebellion, and separatism** (which is nothing more than a Pharisaical spirit). Many are barren of the fruit of God's Divine Nature.

Few people truly use the knowledge of Jesus Christ to become like Him. Few embrace the power of God for the purpose of being changed. For many, knowledge is power. That's why Eve ate from the tree of Knowledge - she was promised godlikeness through power - the power of being superior (Genesis 3:1). This is called barrenness and unfruitfulness in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The most excellent fruit birthed from knowing Jesus isn't about how much you know, how well you teach others, how superior you feel, or how big your ministry is — none of those. The highest fruit of knowing Christ is Christlikeness!!

In 1 Samuel chapter one, we read about a woman named Hannah (Hannah means favored). Elkanah, her husband, loved her. However, she was barren. Through intense prayer and anguish of soul, she besought the LORD to “favor” her and give her a seed.

*And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. (1 Samuel 1:11)*

She did not ask for a son; she asked for a “man-child” (Eesh zeh-rah, a male seed, fruit, or plant). The LORD answered her prayer, and she bore Samuel.

*Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord. (1 Samuel 1:20)*

Samuel means “heard of God.” Samuel is a type of the manifested sons of God. Outside of King David and Jesus Christ, he is the only one in scripture who was a priest, prophet, and king (or judge). Samuel was a disciple of Eli. He grew up in the house of the LORD, going from one mantle of ministry of service unto God to another. He types and shadows the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, and the peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9).

I said all of that to say that Samuel was the fruit of a barren womb from a woman who cried out to God. If you are barren, it's time to start crying out to God. For

many years, I watched my own spiritual womb shrivel in barrenness, wondering why I, and those around me, were not producing the fruitfulness of the likeness, character, and image of the Christ with whom I professed to have a relationship.

There is more to this story than meets the eye.

The high calling of God means to become once again shrouded in the image and likeness of God, lost to man due to rebellion in the foursquare garden paradise. (The garden was foursquare—see *Genesis 2:10—the river in Eden* parted into four heads. The Hebrew meaning of four-heads is foursquare (equal on every side).

God's calling and election guide us to return to the Garden of Paradise and the restoration of God's divine nature. In other words, it is about being conformed and restored to God's original purpose. There is no higher calling than being conformed to the image and likeness that mankind was initially a partaker of. We are called to be partakers of His divine nature and to become like the Son of the Highest (Romans 8:29).

The Most Holy Place is like no other place, location, or dimension of spiritual experience. It is the Holiest of All because of the Holy One who dwells therein.

*And the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. (Exodus 26:33)*

The Hebrew word for holy is qo'desh. In Hebrew, the above verse reads, "And the vail shall divide between the qo'desh and the qo'desh qo'desh." The words most and holy are the same. The highest place of God's presence was known to the Jews as the place of all holiness, double holiness. It was a space given the title "holy holy unto the Lord" because of the presence of the Holy One who resided therein. It is in this place that you and I have been invited. Within this "holy-holy" space was nothing but the Ark of God and the mercy seat, where God's glory presence rested between the Cherubim.

When King David erected the tabernacle of David upon God's chosen place of habitation, Zion, he was, in fact, erecting the Most Holy Place on earth among men. David had a vision of God's dwelling place in heaven. He envisioned establishing the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

*For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. (Psalm 132:13)*

*So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. (Joel 3:17)*

*Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. (Psalm 48:2)*

God Himself called Zion holy. It is stated that Jerusalem shall be holy because God dwells in Zion. Where the Lord God dwells, there is holiness. God's dwelling presence does not reside where filth and impurity occupy space. His presence drives out and consumes corruption and anything contrary to His Divine nature. Jerusalem was not holy because the temple was erected there. It was not holy because of the rituals performed there. It was not holy because of anything a tribe, or a man, did or could possibly do. No. Jerusalem was holy because the Lord's presence dwelt there. God is holy; this is His divine nature.

Attempting to live a holy, set-apart life without the holy presence of the King creates nothing more than a dead religion. Such "holiness" has a form of godliness but denies the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5).

When David came to the throne as the king of the combined nations of Judah and Israel, the Ark of God had been in exile and absent from the people of God for approximately seventy years. A Levite named Abinadab was responsible for keeping and maintaining the Ark of God. After David's third anointing, his first order of business as king was to conquer Zion. His second order of business was to raise a habitation for the Ark of God. His third order of business was to transport the Ark of God from Abinadab's house to Zion. There, he placed the Ark within his raised tent (1 Chronicles 16:1, 2 Chronicles 1:4).

The tent of David, as it was known, became the *Holiest of All* among men. David's tent did not become the most holy place because of anything David did. Rather, Zion, particularly David's tent, became the most holy place as soon as the Ark of God's presence rested there. God's glory took perpetual residence upon Zion and became His holy place of dwelling.

Without the Holy One, it is impossible to be holy; therefore, it is impossible to be a partaker of His divine nature. His presence is holiness. Two characteristics possess the core nature of God: love and holiness. God is love (1 John 4:8), and God is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

Humankind cannot love purely or live holy and pure lives without Him who is love and holiness. God's divine nature of love and holiness can only be gained through Him who is the personification of love and holiness. Without God, His presence, and His transforming champion power of love and holiness, we cannot partake in God's divine nature.

During the millennium, Zion and Jerusalem will be named "The Lord is there." And the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there. (Ezekiel 48:35)

The entire earth will revolve around Zion, where the Lord dwells. Zion will serve as the heartbeat of the global community. To become the resting and dwelling place for the Lord's glorious presence is the destiny and purpose of the called and the chosen. "The Lord is there" will become the new name for those who establish a habitation for God!

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Micah 4:2)

Micah's prophecy concerns the time of the millennium. During the thousand-year reign of Christ, the nations of the earth will pilgrimage to Jerusalem, to the mountain of the Lord. It is there, in His holy presence, that all the nations will learn the ways of the Lord. The Law of God and His Living Word will flow out of Jerusalem and Zion like rivers of glory. Everyone who encounters the glory of God will be transformed.

The importance of establishing a resting place for God's presence within our own hearts cannot be overstated. Love and holiness become the core characteristics of those who have responded to God's calling and election and have become a dwelling place for His throne and glory presence. The core of God's divine nature will become the core nature of the chosen generation.

The city of God is holy because holiness dwells there. Zion was not only known as the holy mountain of the Lord but also as the *high mountain* of the Lord (Revelation 21:10, Joel 2:1, Isaiah 57:15, Psalm 132:13).

I have personally stood upon the mountain range of Zion in Jerusalem. The highest point of the mountain range is under eight hundred meters (2,600 feet) above sea level. Zion barely constitutes a high mountain when its natural height is viewed. When standing beneath Zion, it appears as a small hill. Zion is not high because of its elevation or natural size. Rather, Zion is a high mountain because the *Highest Himself* dwells there (Psalm 18:13, 87:5). He is the Highest, and wherever He dwells is the highest place, even if it's the lowest place. This is why you can experience the lowest places and times of your life; however, if you make a habitation for God's presence through worship and adoration unto Him, you feel as if you have been elevated on high. Why? Because He, the Highest, is present.

God's high calling is a call to His elected ones to come to Him, to the Highest. It always was and forever will be about Him and only Him.

As already mentioned earlier, there is no greater fruit than that which truly showcases the likeness of Jesus, who is the likeness of the heavenly Father. Let's take another look at what the apostle Peter stated concerning the divine power and nature.

*His divine power 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 (virtue), 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. (2 Peter 1:3-4)*

*His divine power 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. —2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)*

Lets look at God's divine nature in relation to fruitfulness.

God's divine power, meaning the power of the godhead, His warrior strength, championship, and sovereignty, propels us forward to the fulfillment of all things related to life and godliness. This is accomplished through the knowledge of the Lord—that is, the intimate and personal knowledge gained through a relationship with Him. God has called you and me to host His glory and excellence, His virtue. Once we flee from the world with its corruption and lust, we are presented with inexpressible prophetic promises that guide us toward becoming partakers of God's divine nature.

Peter's words are explosive and, in a nutshell, explain the vision of bringing to birth the fruit of God's divine nature. However, to reach the place of fulfilled promise, a process is required.

*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (2 Peter 1:5–7)*

These verses demonstrate a powerful and progressive process that introduces us to producing the fruitfulness of God's divine nature. Furthermore, Peter describes the result of growth and maturity unto godliness.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8)

The result of God's calling unto His *glory and virtue (excellence)* is *fruitfulness*. *Spiritual barrenness will never plague the life of the one who pursues the fruitfulness of God's divine nature.*

Fruitfulness is excellence. Many strive for excellence, but they don't aim to be fruitful in Christ's likeness. Excellence is often perceived as possessing good skills, a degree, and the ability to perform skillfully in a specific field, demonstrating expertise or talent. Yes, these can also be viewed as examples of excellence. However, divine, spiritual excellence can only be achieved through the fruitfulness of the unwavering, holy, pure likeness of Christ.

Spiritual barrenness isn't an option for those who seek excellence. Head knowledge, textbook knowledge, and academic understanding are meaningless and hollow when striving for true excellence.