

2 Peter

By Chantel Bink



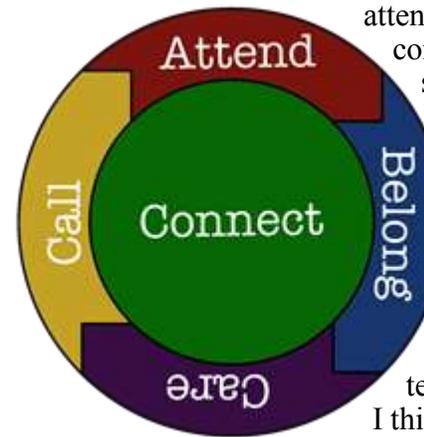
Peter wrote two letters to the Christians of the world, who, perhaps, needed a reminder of what God's children should look like, to both each other and to those who weren't Christians. He could have just as easily written those letters to us a couple thousand years later.

He says several times that we are strangers or "aliens" in this world; therefore we should look, sound, and be different from those around us. He also tells us several times in these two books how to do it.

Second Peter 1 is one of those places. "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. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (1:3-4). He has given us "everything we need!" to work for Him, to serve Him, to overcome temptation and sin through Him. This is AWESOME!

But we are not immediately endowed with the ability to be perfect...darn it. Nor does it come free with no effort on our part. In fact, in the next verse Peter uses the words, "make every effort." We won't be perfect, but we should be making every effort to allow God to make us more the way He created us to be. More like Christ.

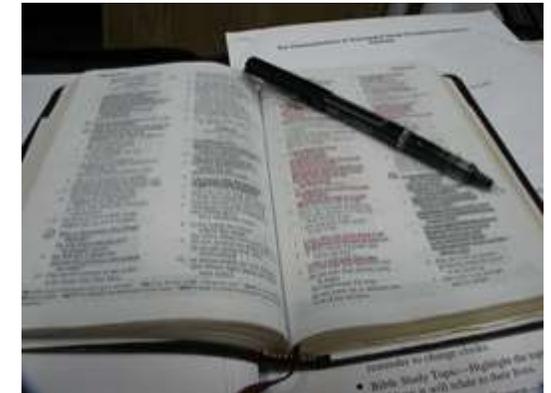
How do we do it? Peter once again tells us, "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love" (1:8). It's like a discipleship process. I have a great idea! How about we



attend church to show our faith, self-control, and godliness; belong to a small group to come to a better knowledge of God's word; persevere in connecting with God and each other; offer brotherly kindness and goodness by caring for others; and show our love by calling others to the knowledge of God's salvation through Christ's sacrifice? Attend, Belong, Connect, Care, Call. I think I'll call it ABC3. (Pastor Matt, you can pay me later.)

It is an on-going, never-ending process. We are never going to achieve Christlikeness here on earth but Peter tells us next, "For you possess these qualities in increasing measure..." (1:8a). In order to grow we need to keep doing them; if we stop we will eventually go back to the way we were. (Those who were at Lewis Primary Camp are now having flashbacks.) Continuously doing these things will "keep [us] from being ineffective and unproductive in [our] knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1:8b).

Following this discipleship process and staying in constant contact with God will make us different from those around us. These things will change us from the inside out (more flashbacks). They will make us look, sound, and be different from the rest of the world and the world will notice.



Let me end with a passage from the other book of Peter. "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us." 1 Peter 1:12

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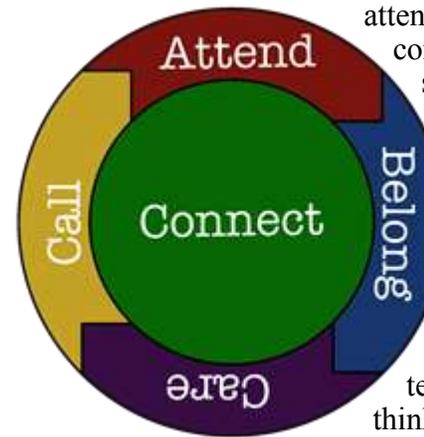
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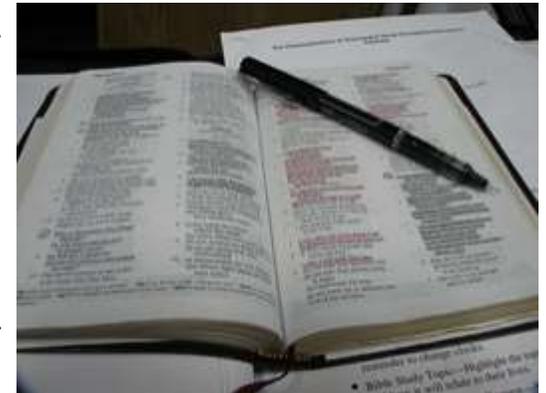
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