

## GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES

New Testament Lesson #230

This is Peter's second letter to encourage believers. He begins by expressing what God has done for them. God's "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" (2 Peter 1:3).

Everything needed for their lives has been provided by God. God has also made the knowledge available to live godly lives, and asks for obedience to His commands. Yet, God has done even more than that! God "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" (2 Peter 1:4).

He has provided the believers with motivation to live their lives faithfully to Him. These great and precious promises He has made will help them participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world.

Yet, to benefit from these promises, the believers also have a responsibility to continue to grow and develop their faith. Peter instructs them to, "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" (2 Peter 1:5-7).

They needed to develop these qualities in their life, if they wanted to receive the blessings associated with God's promises. Peter tells them, "if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8).

Peter also offers a warning. He says, "But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins" (2 Peter 1:9). Peter did not want them to forget about the blessing of having sins forgiven.

He encourages them to take action. He writes, "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10-11).

Peter wants to keep reminding them of these things even though he knew they were firmly established in the truth. He realizes he will eventually depart and he wants to refresh their memory as long as he lives. He also wanted them to remember all these things long after he departed.

His message is to us as well. We too want to remember all the amazing promises God has made in His Word, and let them be a motivation to us to live faithful lives before God and His son, Jesus.

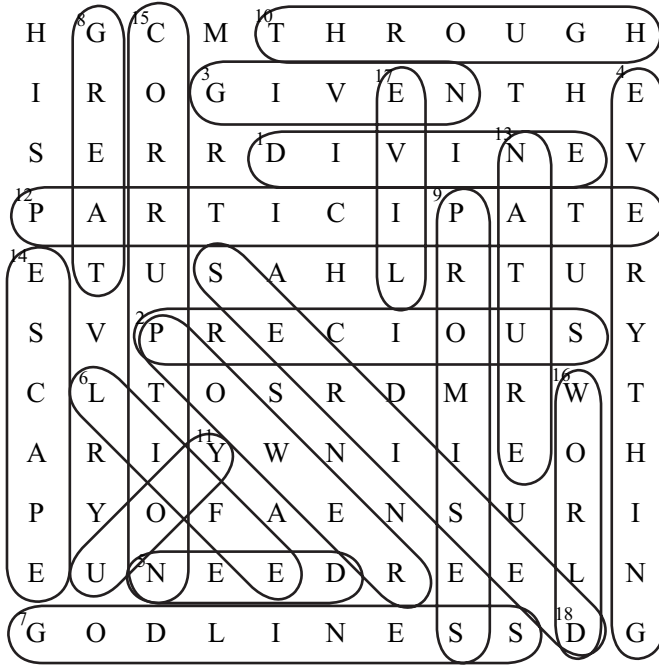
### POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Jesus taught his disciples not to worry about food, clothing, and shelter, but to put their trust in God. What was their focus to be? Jesus tells them, "seek first his (God's) kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).
- In the book of Hebrews, chapter 11 records many examples of men and women of faith. It describes all the amazing things they did because of their faith in what God had promised. Abraham was one of these examples. "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth" (Hebrews 11:13). They acted in faith because they were looking to the future for what God had promised.
- Jesus was also motivated by God's promises and what God was going to do. Hebrews 12 tells us, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). Because of the joy that was set before Jesus of what God had promised, he was able to cope with facing his own death on the cross and all the suffering leading up to it.

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**ANSWER KEY:**



- HAT – FAITH
- NOSES – GOODNESS
- GOWN – KNOWLEDGE
- TOOLS – SELF-CONTROL
- CAVERN – PERSEVERANCE
- SINGLE – GODLINESS
- KISS – KINDNESS
- FIFTEEN – INEFFECTIVE
- VICTOR – UNPRODUCTIVE

- 1. – divine
- 2. – power
- 3. – given
- 4. – everything
- 5. – need
- 6. – life
- 7. – godliness
- 8. – great
- 9. – precious
- 10. – through
- 11. – you
- 12. – participate
- 13. – nature
- 14. – escape
- 15. – corruption
- 16. – world
- 17. – evil
- 18. – desires

**G**od has given us everything we need to live and serve Him.

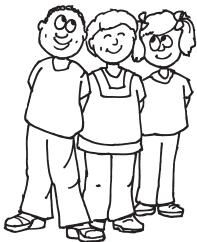
Find the missing words in the word search. The words begin at the number and go in a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal direction from the number.

H	<sup>8</sup> G	<sup>15</sup> C	M	<sup>10</sup> T	H	R	O	U	G	H
I	R	O	<sup>3</sup> G	I	V	<sup>17</sup> E	N	T	H	<sup>4</sup> E
S	E	R	R	<sup>1</sup> D	I	V	I	<sup>13</sup> N	E	V
<sup>12</sup> P	A	R	T	I	C	I	<sup>9</sup> P	A	T	E
<sup>14</sup> E	T	U	S	A	H	L	R	T	U	R
S	V	<sup>2</sup> P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	Y
C	<sup>6</sup> L	T	O	S	R	D	M	R	<sup>16</sup> W	T
A	R	I	<sup>11</sup> Y	W	N	I	I	E	O	H
P	Y	O	F	A	E	N	S	U	R	I
E	U	<sup>5</sup> N	E	E	D	R	E	E	L	N
<sup>7</sup> G	O	D	L	I	N	E	S	S	<sup>18</sup> D	G

His (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ us  
 (4) \_\_\_\_\_ we (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for  
 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 He has given us his very (8) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 (9) \_\_\_\_\_ so that  
 (10) \_\_\_\_\_ them (11) \_\_\_\_\_  
 may (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
 divine (13) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
 (16) \_\_\_\_\_ caused by (17) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (18) \_\_\_\_\_ .

Rearrange the letters from the given words, placing them in the circles to create longer words.

Make every effort to add these qualities to your life:



They will keep you from being ...

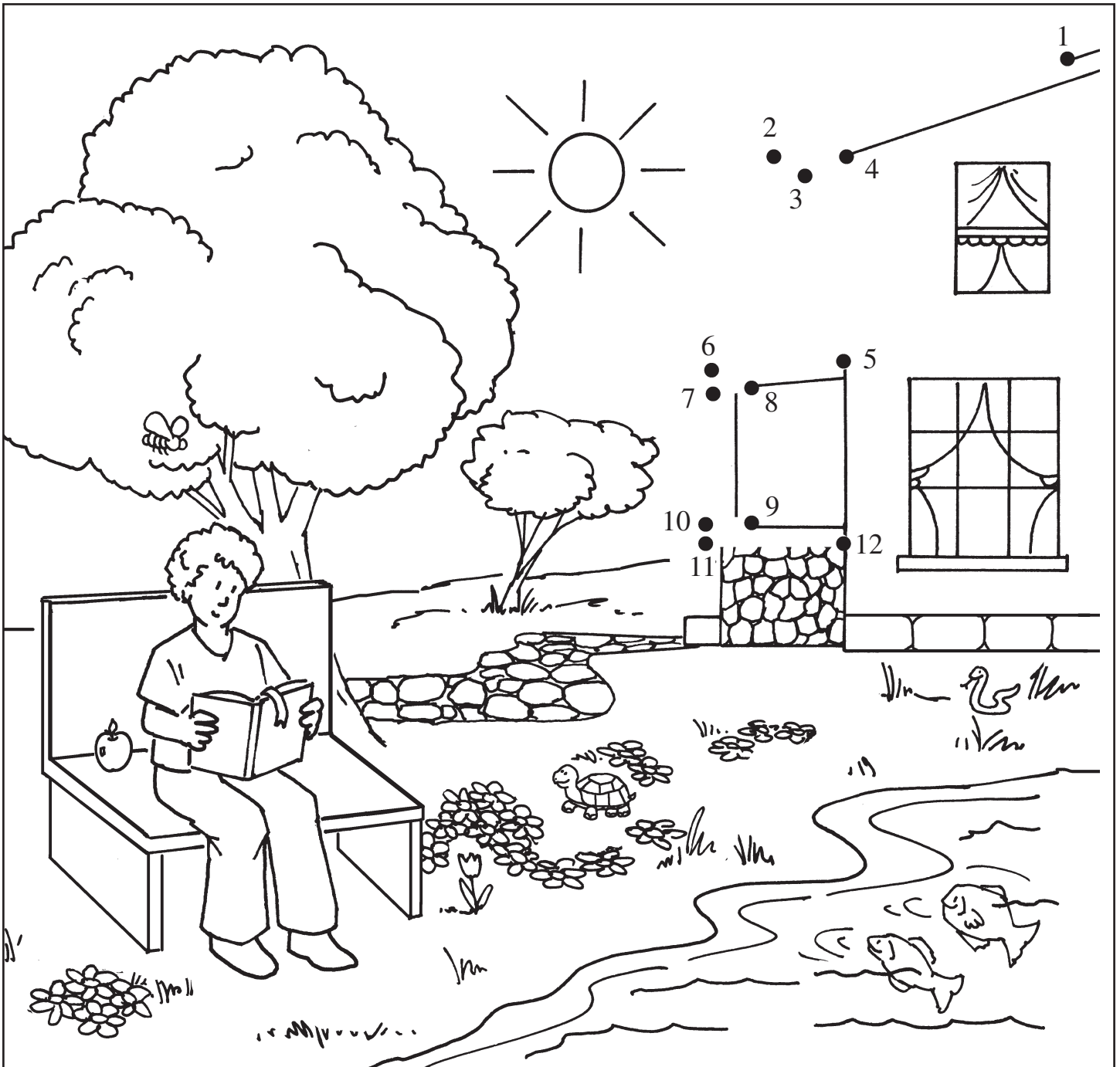
HAT	F	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—			
NOSES	G	—	O	D	—	—	—	—	—			
GOWN	K	—	—	—	L	E	D	—	E			
TOOLS	—	E	—	F	-	C	—	N	—	R	—	L
CAVERN	P	—	—	S	E	—	E	R	—	—	—	E
SINGLE	—	O	D	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—
KISS	—	—	N	D	N	E	—	—	—	—	—	—
	L	O	V	E	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FIFTEEN	—	—	E	—	—	—	—	C	—	I	V	—
VICTOR	U	N	P	—	—	D	U	—	—	—	—	E

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**G**od has given us everything we need to live and serve Him.

Connect the dots.  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Find and **circle** these items.



Name \_\_\_\_\_