

## **DIVINE PERFORMANCE OF CWL**

In our lesson text, Peter identified 8 divine qualities of spiritual maturity of Christian Way of Life (CWL). This is what Bob Thieme called reaching and maintaining Super Grace Maturity.

We will begin by studying our lesson text by the following seven homiletical points.

- |                             |                |   |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
| • Divine Power              | (1:3)          | Eternal life and godliness                        |
| • Divine Promise            | (1:4a)         | Precious and magnificent promises                 |
| • Divine Partakers          | (1:4b)         | Divine nature                                     |
| • Divine Protection         | (1:4c)         | Escape corruption in world                        |
| • <b>Divine Performance</b> | <b>(1:5-7)</b> | <b>Eight characteristics of the divine nature</b> |
| • Divine Production         | (1:8)          | Productive in true knowledge                      |
| • Divine Problem            | (1:9)          | Blind and short-sighted regarding personal sin    |

<b>This lesson will focus on DIVINE PERFORMANCE recorded in 2 Pet.1: 5-7.</b>
---

**We will study the Greek grammar and the eight qualities of a spiritually mature church age believer under the following four points:**

- 1. 2 Pet.1: 5 opens with a classical Greek idiom (de kai auto touto). It is translated “now for this very reason.”**

This idiom is used to refer back to what was discussed in 1:3-4 (look above to points 1-4).

This idiom emphasizes the phrase, “in order that by them (divine promises) you might become (ginomai / a.m.subj) partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lusts (divine protection).” (1:4)

- 2. This classical Greek idiom is used to introduce an analogy taken from the Greek tragedy drama.**

The Greek word for supply is (epichoregeo / epi / choros / hegeomai). The epichoregeo supplied the finances for the chorus in the Greek tragedy drama. The chorus in Greek drama danced and sang and chanted odes during the drama.

Epichoregeo is (a.a.impv / command) – “in your faith supply moral excellence.” (1:5) It is commanded once but implied in all of the 8 qualities of a spiritual mature believer.

It is important to understand that each spiritually mature believer becomes his own epichoregeo in CWL. This means that each spiritually mature believer is responsible for the performance of the eight chorus members of the drama of the CWL.

This Greek word is used in the following passages (2 Cor.9: 10; Gal.3: 5; Eph.4: 16; Phil.1: 19; Col.2: 19; 1 Pet.4: 11; 2 Pet.1: 5, 11).

- 3. The phrase “applying (pareisphero / a.a.ptc nplm) all diligence (pas spoude)” teaches that it is the responsibility of each believer to reach and maintain the eight qualities of spiritual maturity listed in 2 Pet.1: 5-7.**

Every believer starts out the CWL as a baby, in spiritual growth needing milk doctrines (1 Pet.2: 2). Once he is secure regarding his salvation, he enters spiritual maturity and needs meat doctrines (Heb.5: 13-14).

Peter is talking about identifying the advancement of spiritual maturity status (super grace) by the 8 qualities listed in 1:5-7.

Peter compared the spiritual mature CWL as a Greek chorus of 8 members. Each of the 8 members plays an important part in the drama of the CWL. Each member is essential to the performance of the one play.

#### **4. The eight qualities of spiritual mature CWL are dependent upon their order in the performance of the CWL.**

They are written in Greek grammar in a specific way to identify each of them in their order (de en+inst of means to arete / inst.sm, ten gnosis / asf) (and in your moral excellence, knowledge / 1:5 / 2<sup>nd</sup> quality).

“Each of the additions in verses 15-7 necessarily precedes the one which follows it in the text. This is because, the means to the end must precede the end and the cause must precede the result and that which is added must follow that to which it is appended.” (Ren.of NT, pg.195)

1<sup>st</sup> – faith (pistis) cycle (Rom.10: 17; 2 Cor.5: 7)

2<sup>nd</sup> – moral excellence (arete) – performance to praise (virtue)

3<sup>rd</sup> – knowledge (gnosis) – seeking to know; enquiring minds wants to know (2 Pet.3: 18; 2 Cor.8: 7)

4<sup>th</sup> – self-control (egkrateia) – temperance (Gal.5: 23; Titus 1:8)

5<sup>th</sup> - perseverance (hupomone) – patience under pressure or trials (Jas.1: 3, 12; Rom.12: 12)

6<sup>th</sup> - godliness (eusebeia/ well devoted) – piety (2 Pet.1: 3; 3:11; 1 Tim.3: 16; 6:3)

7<sup>th</sup> – brotherly love (philadelphia) – (Rom.12: 10; 1 Thess.4: 9; Heb.13: 1)

8<sup>th</sup> – love (agape) – (1 Cor.13: 1-8)

One is not more important than another is because they are a chorus of 8. What is important is their order for performance in CWL.

Remember that between each of the eight there is the command (epichoregeo /supply / a.a.impv 2pl) – “in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence supply knowledge.”

Some scholars have referred to them as a seven-story building upon the foundation of FAITH and refer to love as the penthouse. However I have chose to stick with the textual analogy of the Greek drama chorus where the play has a HAPPY LOVE ENDING.