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The Meaning of the Words of the Text

“To them that have obtained like precious faith
with us”
(2 Peter 1:1)

In the preface to the second epistle (which is summed up in the first two verses), three things are legible:

1. A prescription of the person saluting, by his name, Simon Peter; his condition, a servant; his office, an apostle; and his Master, Jesus Christ;
2. A description of the persons saluted: “To them that have obtained like precious faith with us”; and
3. The apostolic benediction, or salutation itself.

Those words that are usefully to be treated here are those that relate to the persons saluted, who are thus characterized by the Spirit of the Lord in this description: “To them that have obtained like precious faith with us.”

This epistle was written and sent to the Jews who were converted and dispersed on the face of the earth, generally to all the converted Jews. Now (no question but) there were many of them

who were rich and honorable, so that many high titles might have been attributed onto them; but the apostle gives them no other title than this: "To them that have obtained like precious faith with us."

When we write epistles, we use in the superscriptions the most respectful titles to those we write unto that they are capable of having, according to their place and trust. If we write to any who are persons of honor, we usually give them the title of honor, as the honorable ones. Yet the apostle, though he wrote to many who were rich and great too, put no other title upon them than this: "To them that have obtained like precious faith with us." He accounted this (as indeed it is) to be the most noble Christian title and badge of honor that he could crown them with: "That have obtained like precious faith with us." It is precious faith, a faith of price, and it has been obtained.

Faith is here compared to a precious stone, to a goodly pearl, and to a diamond. And so it is to them who have obtained it, to them who have had precious faith given unto them by lot (that is the meaning of the word). The word in the Greek that you have translated in your books as "obtained" signifies to have a thing by lot. So in Luke 1:9, it is said of Zacharias that he went to burn incense by lot. It was his lot to do the work. It is the same word that you have in Luke, with that of Peter, which is translated "obtained." And