

Within the Word

A Study of 2 Peter 1

A Note from Kathy

It is never God's desire for us to merely "get by." God's desire for us is to be filled with His grace and peace, in abundance. Would you say this describes your week so far? Study this chapter with the expectation of hearing from your heavenly Father. This chapter is filled with many of the keys that will enable you to live a godly life.

Observation

1. 1 Peter was written to help fellow believers persevere, while suffering for the cause of Christ, as well as for those who would suffer for Christ in the future. 2 Peter was written to expose false teachers. Who wrote both of these letters?
2. The recipients of this letter are not mentioned until 2 Peter 3:1. Peter tells them that this is his second letter to them. If we look back we see the recipients mentioned in 1 Peter 1:1 are the elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. What fact can be seen concerning the recipients in 2 Peter 1:1?
3. In verses 3-10, Peter focuses on the call of God and the assurance available for the believer. We have been given everything we need to live a productive and pleasing life for Christ. What is our source, our fount of every blessing?
4. God has granted believers some great and precious promises. Because of these promises, we can actually share some of his divine character qualities. It is available to us each day to live in these promises and to join in his divine nature. When we are focused on this, what is the added benefit? What do we escape? In turn, who do we become more like?
5. Our salvation began with a specific event in our life. From that point on, we are to grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter gives us a list of qualities that we are to make every effort to add to our faith (vs. 5-6). Define each quality below.
 - Faith – belief in and devotion to God
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6. What is the qualified promise given to us in verse 8?

If you _____

They will _____

7. We have said it many times before, but what is the proof of any tree? _____

According to 2 Peter 1:8, when we have these qualities in increasing measure (they are growing and yielding a harvest), we will not be useless and unproductive. We will be more and more like the One we love and serve.



8. If a believer fails to pursue these qualities, Scripture says he is nearsighted and blind. What does it mean to be spiritually nearsighted? What does it mean to be spiritually blind?

9. No one who is spiritually nearsighted or blind can enjoy the assurance of their salvation. They will eventually be filled with fear and doubt. We cannot lose our salvation, but we can lose the joy of walking in sweet fellowship with Him. It is impossible to be going in two different directions at the same time. According to verses 10-11, if we do these things, what assurance are believers given?

10. Peter is no longer a young man. He is remembering the words Jesus spoke to him many, many years earlier. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." We do not know exactly why Peter is feeling the nearness of this day, but he is. What is of great importance to Peter, according to verses 14-16?

11. Peter makes it very clear that he is not sharing cleverly invented stories. What does he share that would substantiate his story? Why do you suppose he shares this fact?

12. Next, Peter gives a personal testimony concerning two events that he witnessed with his own eyes and ears. Briefly, describe them below.

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13. Peter assures them that the prophets did not make up the prophecies concerning the Messiah. How did Peter say these men knew what to write?

Application

1. In what way did studying 2 Peter 1 enrich your understanding of salvation?
2. Regardless of how long we have been a believer, times of doubt will come our way. We must be prepared to handle those times. There is one cure for doubts and fear. According to John 8:32 and 1 John 4:18, where should we run?

John 8:32

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect (complete, mature) in love.

3. Are you enjoying a life of true worship and active obedience? I'm not referring to perfection, but a growing faith. If so, what are you doing that is adding to your faith?
4. What spiritual fruit are you seeing?
5. It was Peter's desire that believers be firmly established in the truth. He knew by experience how heartbreaking it could be to deny the One you love. Have you ever been in a similar position, where you denied your belief? It was probably not Roman guards, but perhaps at the office or the gym, or some other situation, and you did not take the stand you thought you would. How did you feel afterwards? What did you do? Remember, the Lord knew all about Peter's denial before it happened. It was Peter who was surprised by it. But, God was not finished with Peter. No, He was about to use Peter in a great way. What about you?

6. Peter may be sounding a bit repetitious, but repetition is one of the best tools for learning. Notice, how encouraging his words are in verse 12. How we word things can make a huge difference in how our words are received. Are you good at reminders, or does it sound a bit more like nagging? I have a friend whose husband told her that the first time she shares something it's information, but every time after that it's nagging. I knew he was teasing, but it made an impression on me. Try asking yourself, am I sharing information in a way that it can be easily received, or does it sound more like nagging?

7. John MacArthur said, "If believers are going to stand against the errors of false teachers, they must seek to know, accept, and obey the totality of Scripture." I am very proud of you for studying God's word. You are showing great diligence to study His word every week, and I believe during your study time, His words are changing you. What part of this chapter has encouraged you in your walk of faith?

8. What amazing aspect of God's character did you see in this chapter?