



## 2 Peter

- **Luke 5:8** – But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"
- Peter's only response was to humble himself before a mighty God
- He felt totally unworthy (and so should we)
- God wants humbled, imperfect people to deliver His message
- **V. 9-11** – Peter put Jesus on the scales and decided He was more valuable to Him than anything else
- Apparently they left their boats and their lives for good at this point (until **John 21**)

## Some of Peter's Highs

- **Matthew 16:13-19** - Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is? 14 And they said, Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. 15 He said to them, But who do you say that I am? 16 **Simon Peter** replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered him, **Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!** For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**

- **Matthew 16:21-23** - From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you. 23 But he turned and said to Peter, **Get behind me, Satan!** You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.
- Peter's mouth had just been used for God and moments later used for Satan
- Peter was doing exactly what Satan had tried to do, elevate himself above God
- A lesson for leaders, the greater the potential to be used by god, the greater the potential to be used by Satan (be mindful of your arrogance)

- **Luke 22:54-62** - Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and **Peter** was following at a distance. 55 And when they had kindled a fire (**John 18:18 says it was a charcoal fire**) in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, This man also was with him. 57 But he denied it, saying, Woman, I do not know him. 58 And a little later someone else saw him and said, You also are one of them. But Peter said, Man, I am not. 59 And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean. 60 But Peter said, Man, I do not know what you are talking about. And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 **And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.** And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times. 62 **And he went out and wept bitterly.**

- **John 13:36-38** - Simon Peter said to him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered him, Where I am going you cannot follow me now, **but you will follow afterward.** 37 Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you. 38 Jesus answered, Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Jesus knows 4 things about Peter

1. You're going to deny me 3 times tonight
2. You don't love me the way you should
3. Therefore, you cannot follow me
4. You WILL follow afterward!

- **Luke 22:31-32** - Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. **And when you have turned again,** strengthen your brothers.
- Jesus had prayed for Peter and He knew the outcome
- Jesus knew Peter was going to fail, but he wasn't Judas
- Peter was a true believer and WHEN you come back to Jesus, strengthen your brothers
- The reason you'll have the strength to strengthen your brothers is because you're going to love me then
- Peter had to go through all of this to get where God wanted him

- John 21:15-17
  1. Feed my lambs
  2. Tend my sheep
  3. Feed my Sheep
  
- John 21:18-19



## After the ascension of Jesus

- **Acts 1:12-26** – Peter leads in choosing a replacement for Judas
- **Acts 2:14; 22-24; 37-41** – Fearlessly preaching the gospel on Pentecost
- **Acts 3** – Peter heals a lame man
- **Acts 4:1-20** – 5,000 get saved
- **Acts 5:1-11** – Peter disciplines sinning church members (shepherd)
- **Acts 8:14-17** – Peter was present when the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit
- **Acts 10** – Peter speaks to the gentile Roman soldier Cornelius and he gets saved
- Peter has now shown that all people groups can be part of God's family (Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles)
- **Acts 15:1-2; 7-11** – Peter is the one who leads the Jerusalem Council
- After this, Peter mostly disappears from scripture until his writing of **1 & 2 Peter**
- We know from just a couple verses that Peter acted as a missionary and was in Antioch, possibly Corinth and Asia Minor, finally dying in Rome by Nero's persecution

## 2 Peter 1:13-15

- Peter somehow knew he was about to die
- He recalled the prophecy Jesus had given him after his resurrection
- **John 21:18-21** – Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.  
19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.)...
- Now, after almost 40 years of being faithful to feeding Jesus' sheep, his death is near
- 2 Peter was likely written in 67 or 68 AD, possibly in a Roman prison
- According to tradition and some writings from Eusebius, Peter was martyred at the end of Nero's rule in Rome
- It's said that Nero crucified Peter's wife in front of him while Peter kept comforting her saying, "remember the Lord"
- Then Peter requested to be crucified upside down because he didn't feel worthy of the way Jesus died

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – “servant and **apostle** to Jesus Christ”
- The way Peter introduces himself is important
- Apostle – “one who is sent out”
  1. generically refers to those sent as ambassadors of Jesus (us, Barnabas, Titus, etc.)

**2 Corinthians 5:20** - Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
  2. specific to the 12 – referring to something unique and carries authority

**Revelation 21:14** - And the wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were **the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

**Ephesians 2:19-20** - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20 built on the foundation of the apostles** and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – “servant and **apostle** to Jesus Christ”
- The type of apostle Peter is talking about does not exist in today's church
- They had to meet certain qualifications:
  - Witness of the resurrection - **1 Corinthians 9:1** - Am I not free? Am I not an **apostle?**  
**Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?**
  - Must be chosen by the Holy Spirit - **Acts 9:15** - But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is a **chosen instrument** of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (speaking about the Apostle Paul)
  - Must have the ability to perform signs and wonders - **2 Corinthians 12:12** - The **signs of a true apostle** were performed among you with utmost patience, with **signs and wonders** and mighty works.

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – “**servant** and apostle to Jesus Christ”
- Even though Peter could claim such a high and lofty position, he first describes himself as a slave (doulos)
- There is a huge difference in an ambassador and a slave
- The slave in this culture was no better than an animal
- A master possessed his slaves like he would possess a tool
- A servant could change his master, a slave could not
- Peter was saying that he had given up all his rights and gave unquestionable obedience to whatever God wanted him to do; total surrender
- He could demand special treatment because he was a true apostle, but he humbled himself and his first description is that of a slave

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – “**servant** and apostle to Jesus Christ”
- There was a time when Peter did not have this attitude
- **Luke 22:21-26** - But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. 22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed! 23 And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this. 24 **A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.** 25 And he said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26 But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and **the leader as one who serves.**

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- **V. 1** – To those who have **obtained a faith of equal standing** (*same kind, like precious*) **with ours**
- The same humble emphasis continues
- Peter is saying that we are on the same spiritual plane as the apostle Peter
- The faith we received is the same faith that Peter received
- The word “obtained” occurs only 4 times
- Every time it refers to getting something through no effort of your own, it’s by lot
- They cast lots for Jesus clothes, they did not earn it
- The word Peter chooses shows us that we cannot boast or be arrogant about obtaining our faith
- The lot was cast and we were chosen...believe (faith)

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – To those who have **obtained a faith of equal standing** (*same kind, like precious*) **with ours**
- We didn't do anything to earn it, we were chosen, so we have no reason to boast over anyone because it was God's choice not ours
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been **saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- Through faith, we become a part of a heavenly family and this world is not our own
- **Galatians 3:23-28**



**Galatians 3:23-28** - Now **before faith** came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned **until** the coming **faith** would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be **justified by faith**. 25 But **now that faith has come**, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 **for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith**. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**.

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- **V. 1** – To those who have **obtained a faith of equal standing** (*same kind, like precious*) **with ours**
- We enter a heavenly family with equal standing and our status here on Earth becomes meaningless
- So even though Peter does have authority, he humbles himself to meet us as a brother in Christ

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 1 – by the **righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
- Peter understood that we receive our faith because Jesus is righteous (not us)
- We can only be righteous through Him
- That is the bar that is set for us, we are to live righteously
- We can only do that through Jesus
- There is no other way

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- **V. 1** – by the righteousness of our **God and Savior Jesus Christ:**
- The same man that Peter spent 3 years with, that Peter tried to correct, that Peter said he'd never leave, that Peter denied 3 times
- The same man that they crucified and then was resurrected
- That man is God and our Savior
- No one likely understood this as well as Peter

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 2 – May **grace and peace** be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:1-2** - Therefore, since we have been justified by **faith**, (V.1) we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this **grace** in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- **Grace** is God's free, unmerited favor towards sinners that grants those that believe (have faith), complete forgiveness forever through Jesus
- **Peace** with God is the result of this grace we have been given
- Because we are forgiven and Jesus covers our sin, we can be in God's presence and we are no longer at enmity (hostile) with God

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 2 – May grace and peace be **multiplied** to you **in the knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- “knowledge” here is the Greek word *epignosis* meaning an intimate knowledge
- Grace and Peace are the result of salvation, and salvation does not occur unless you have a genuine knowledge of Jesus
- Increasing knowledge of God is the means by which that initial grace and peace grows and becomes powerful in your life
- If you want to experience God’s grace and peace in your life, and effect the world around you (multiplied), your knowledge of Him has to grow
- When we study God’s Word and gain in our knowledge of Him, grace and peace multiplies in us, which overflows in our life and into the world around us
- Grace and Peace is NOT available to those who don’t intimately know God

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 2 – May grace and peace be **multiplied** to you **in the knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- Do you ever wish you had the ability to change the world around you?
- Do you ever pray for lost people you know?
- They can only receive grace and have peace with God if they hear and understand the Word
- **Romans 10:13-17** - For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent?...17 **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**
- Knowing the Lord in salvation is the starting point
- The rest of your life is a pursuit of greater knowledge to allow it to multiply in your life and overflow into others

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 3 – His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,
- “Life” I think refers to the life that was breathed into us at salvation and the continuation of that life in our daily walk
- When it comes to life and godliness, everything is provided for us
- It doesn't mean we play no part in it, but we could never have eternal life or be godly on our own
- God has provided everything we need from salvation, through sanctification, and all the way to glorification
- God's divine power has made sure we are saved
- God's divine power will see us through all of life's trials
- God's divine power will ensure we never lose our salvation



## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- V. 3 – **through the knowledge** of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
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- How is this divine power experienced and made active in our lives?
- Through knowledge of Him

## 2 Peter 1:1-4

- **V. 4** – by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
- “by which” – by His glory and excellence
- The promises of God release us from corruption and allow us to partake in the divine nature
- There are 2 things we need above everything else:
  1. To be free from the power of sin that corrupts us
  2. To be united to God in His likeness
- The way to achieve that is through the knowledge of Him by understanding His precious and very great promises found in His Word
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.



