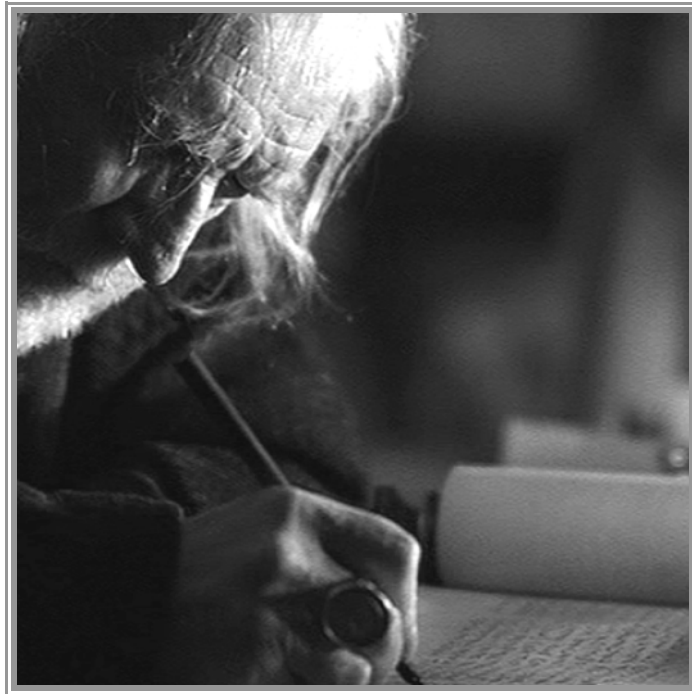


# THE WRITINGS OF PETER



STUDY 1

2 PETER 1

*Sunday Morning* Bible Study

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## STUDY 1 ~ 2 PETER 1

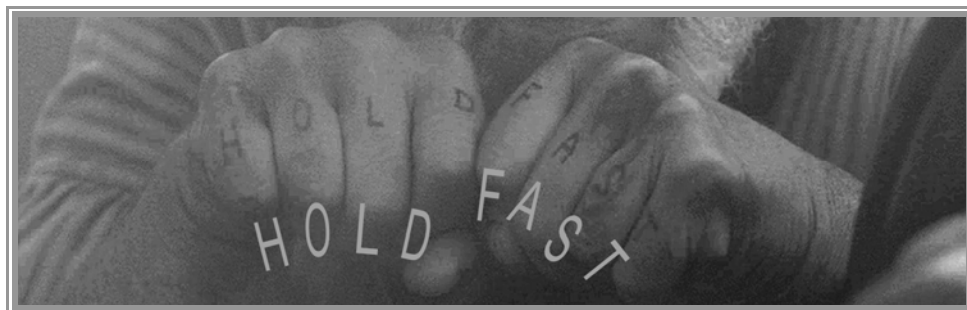
**Introduction** – Today we begin our study of the Apostle Peter's final writing in the Bible, the letter titled appropriately, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. While Peter's first letter was to Christians enduring the storm of persecution in Asia Minor, this letter had a wider circulation among the churches of the day. The key issue being addressed in Peter's second letter was that of dealing with false teachings that were corrupting the teachings of Messiah and promoting rebellious and immoral living.

In his second letter, Peter continues his admonition to **HOLD FAST** in order to endure through the storm. The storm these Christians faced was that of false teaching. Believers of all generations who face heresy must **HOLD FAST**. **They must**

**HOLD FAST** to a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ

**HOLD FAST** to Evidences for Their Faith

**HOLD FAST** to the Future that God Promises



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**2 Peter was most likely written** just before Peter's death (2 Peter 1:14) somewhere between 64 A.D. and 66 A.D. If Peter had still been alive in 67 A.D. when Paul wrote 2 Timothy, Paul probably would have made mention of Peter being in Rome as he mentioned others that were there at the time but nothing is said about Peter leading most scholars to conclude he had already been martyred.

**Most of chapter 1** focuses on the Christian's growing relationship with Jesus Christ which is the first life line Christians are to HOLD FAST to when surviving the storms of false teaching. The last part of chapter 1 brings up the evidences that support our faith which is the second life line we must HOLD FAST to when faced with untruth. **Chapter 2** warns Christians about false teachers, foretells of their demise, and tells the believer how to recognize false teachers. **Chapter 3** describes world conditions in the last days and the promise of Christ's future return and how we should live in light of this promise and this is the third life line we must HOLD FAST to when battling the storms of heresy.

***If you're not already there, turn to 2 Peter chapter 1. Today's study will focus on our first life line we are to HOLD FAST to, that of our relationship with Jesus Christ.***

2 Peter 1:1-2

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

## ***Group Questions***

- **Verse 2** – How can undeserved favor and peace from God be multiplied to Christians? Through a deepening knowledge of God and Jesus Christ.
- **Verse 2** – How do you get to know someone? By spending time with them talking and listening to them.
- **Verse 2** – God is invisible so how do you get to know Him? By reading His Word in the way you would listen to a close friend.

## **2 Peter 1:3-4**

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

## ***Group Questions***

- **Verse 3** – What is the connection between knowing Christ and living life in a godly way? In order to pursue knowing Christ we have to be exposed to His Word; with His Word in our thinking, we are moved to think, speak, and act more like Him (godly) in this life here and now.
- **Verse 4** – What promise was kept that allows Christians to be partakers of God's divine nature? **Here are some clues:**  
**Listen to Ezekiel 36:26-27** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. **And listen to Jesus' words to the disciples in John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **Here's the last clue: Ephesians 1:13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

- **Verse 4** – What is one aspect of God’s divine nature that Christians partake of? His eternal life. When the Holy Spirit indwells us and seals us with Himself, His eternal life is imparted to our spirits and from that point on have eternal life as much as He does.

## 2 Peter 1:5-8

And beside this, giving all diligence [*care*], add to your faith virtue [literally: *moral excellence*]; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance [*self control*]; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity [*unconditional love*]. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***Group Questions***

- **Verse 5** – What kind of a verb is “add”? It is an imperative verb – it is a command. When we are commanded to do something it is because it is not something we automatically do, we have to choose to do what we are being instructed to do.
- **Verses 5-8** – Faith + Moral Excellence + Knowledge + Self Control + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Unconditional Love = What? A non-barren (*not without seed*), fruitful (*visible produce*) Christian seeking to know Jesus Christ. In other words, choosing to do life by obeying Peter’s instructions, results in a believer who is in a growing relationship with Christ that shows on the outside (*fruitful*) and spreads their faith to others (*seed*).
- Can a Christian who is seeking to know Christ have a life that is without evidence of this relationship with Christ? Yes. Jesus explains in John 15:2 that there are believers in Him whose lives have no visible evidence of their relationship with Him. This is why Peter instructs Christians to be careful to add to their faith the very qualities that give us distinction from the world so there will be no question of our connection to Jesus Christ.

## 2 Peter 1:9-14

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

### ***Group Questions***

- **Verse 10** – Be careful to make your salvation sure to who? Anyone who may be observing. If you've trusted Christ for your salvation YOU know you're saved; GOD knows your saved (1 John 3:20); so the people that need to know we're saved are believers and unbelievers around us. We want to make our relationship with Christ evident by practicing what Peter told us to practice so fellow Christians' faith is reinforced and non-Christians are drawn to Christ.
- **Verse 10** – What will help prevent stumbling as we walk with Christ? Remembering to practice Peter's check list of godly behavior: Faith + Moral Excellence + Knowledge + Self Control + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Unconditional Love.

#### A Commentary Note on 1 Peter 1:12

1:12. Peter, knowing his days were numbered, wanted his readers to retain all he would write in this epistle. Three times he spoke of this: **I will... remind you** (v. 12), "I... refresh your memory" (v. 13), "you will... be able to remember" (v. 15; cf. 3:1). Peter was almost apologetic in the second half of 1:12; he did not want his readers to misunderstand his intention. He was not being critical nor did he suggest they were wavering. Instead, he said they did **know** the truths he wrote about **and** he was aware that they were **firmly established in the truth**. He wanted them to stay that way. ("Established" is from *stērizō*, which means "strengthen" or "be firm"; cf. 1 Thes. 3:2, 13; 2 Thes. 2:17; 3:3; 1 Peter 5:10.) A problem in many churches today is not that believers do not know what God expects of them, but they either forget (cf. 2 Peter 1:9) or are unwilling to live out the truth they **now have**. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament Copyright 1983, SP Publications, Inc. All rights reserved Electronic Edition STEP Files Copyright © 1997, Parsons Technology, Inc. Victor Books, A Division of Scripture Press Publications, Inc.

- 1.** Peter instructs Christians who are enduring storms of false teaching to HOLD FAST to three life lines: **One:** HOLD FAST to a **GROWING RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus Christ; **Two:** HOLD FAST to **EVIDENCES** for Their Faith; and **Three:** HOLD FAST to the future that God **PROMISES**.
- 2.** The more we read God's Word the **DEEPER** our understanding of Jesus Christ grows and the **CLOSER** our relationship with Him becomes.
- 3.** The **CLOSER** we get to Christ the more our **LIFE** resembles His.
- 4.** Faith + Moral Excellence + Knowledge + Self Control + Patience + Godliness + Brotherly Kindness + Unconditional Love = A life that **PRODUCES** here on earth the things that will impact others' lives **ETERNALLY** for Christ.
- 5.** Christians who **FAIL** to remember to check their fruitfulness according to Peter's check list are at risk of **STUMBLING** in their walk with Christ.

**OUR WORLD IS FULL OF FALSE TEACHINGS AND UNTRUTHS DESIGNED TO CONFUSE AND IMMOBILIZE US. WE MUST REMEMBER TO HOLD FAST TO THE LIFE LINES JESUS CHRIST HAS PROVIDED FOR US.**