

Living as if... 2 Peter

Review: We are foreigners!

- Our value system and goals are different.
- Our attitudes and actions are different.
- We will face struggles because we are different—internal, external, and spiritual struggles.

2 Peter Introduction

- The last message we have from Peter (**2 Peter 1:12**)
- A servant of Christ; speaks of the Kingdom
- A faith (content of the faith)—in contrast to Calvinism
- To the foreigners who have a faith equal to the disciples—Gnostics had attacked

2 Peter 1:12–15 (NIV) ¹²So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

Introduction to the book:

2 Peter 1:1 (NIV) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

Jude 3 (NIV) Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for **the faith** that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. [**emphasis added**]

Reassurance to the Foreigners

1. God has supplied what we need for a godly life.

- The Faith: content and directions
- The Holy Spirit: power
- The body—the church: support

2 Peter 1:3–4 (NIV) ³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Looking further into the reassurance to the believers about the Word of God:

- Reassurance about what? The truth about who Jesus is and what happened.
- The truth about what happened and why they are willing to die for the message.
- God's Word in the past and present (the prophecies and messages come from God).
- More on this next week.

2 Peter 1:16–21 (NIV) ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2. We are called to live to please the Lord.

- **Look back at vs 3-4:**

2 Peter 1:5–9 ^(NIV) ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

A. Add to your understanding of the content.

- You have the ability to add to your faith (content). It's a living faith.
- The fruit of the Spirit is summed up in relationship.

B. Faith leads to growing sanctification, which means changed behavior, changed heart, and changed actions.

- Following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and being committed to the mission of Jesus. (**Matthew 4:19**)
- The process of transformation into Christ-likeness
- An increasing measure

C. Warning: You can become nearsighted and blind!

- NO unproductive and ineffective Christianity
- Near sightedness—or blindness: seeing only the here and now, and not seeing what is eternally is possible.

So what do we do with this passage? Choose to live in the promises!

- God is the Alpha and the Omega
- Bow before Him within your circumstances
- Focus on the eternal

Revelation 1:4–8 ^(NIV) ⁴John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. ⁷“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Questions to ponder and discuss at home and in your life group:

1. What passage will you meditate on this coming week? How will you abide in your relationship with Jesus this week?
2. What stood out to you about God, people, or the world?
3. What challenged your thinking and perspective? How do you want to respond?
4. How does what you are understanding impact your relationship with God? Or with your family? Or those in your life group? Or people you work/do business with?
5. What was for you from this message? What, from this message, is God pressing upon you to share with someone else?