

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 02 Mar..... 1 Peter 1:1-12..... Our Inheritance
- 2) 09 Mar..... 1 Peter 1:13-25..... Our Mandate
- 3) 16 Mar..... 1 Peter 2:1-10..... Our Identify
- 4) 23 Mar..... 1 Peter 2:11-25..... Our Witness
- 5) 30 Mar..... 1 Peter 3:1-12..... Our Relationships
- 6) 06 Apr..... 1 Peter 3:13-22..... Our Defense
- 7) 13 Apr..... 1 Peter 4:1-11..... Our Faith
- 8) 20 Apr..... Mark 15-16..... EASTER – Our Savior
- 9) 27 Apr..... 1 Peter 4:12-19..... Our Savior
- 10) 04 May..... 1 Peter 5:1-14..... Be Prepared
- 11) 11 May..... 2 Peter 1:1-21..... Be Equipped**
- 12) 18 May..... 2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25..... Be Alert
- 13) 25 May..... 2 Peter 3:1-18..... Be Encouraged

**INTRODUCTION**

- Spiritual growth does not come automatically or by osmosis
- It takes intentional hard work over time
- It begins with KNOWLEDGE → the knowing what to do, when to do it, and how to do it
- Then to do things right, it takes DISCIPLINE, SELF-CONTROL, ENDURANCE, and the RIGHT ATTITUDE
- QUESTION → ARE WE UP TO THE TASK?

Passage	Comments
2Peter 1:1-3	<p><b>Knowing God's Word Provides Grace and Peace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. <b>Peace</b> is not the absence of conflict between us and others, but between us and God</li> <li>• If there is harmony between us and God, we are in God's will and we will get our prayers answered</li> <li>• God also provides <b>Grace</b> or providential blessings as needed to accomplish His will</li> <li>• <b>KNOWLEDGE IS THE PRIMARY KEY.</b> This grace (providential blessings) and peace with God begins with intimately knowing God's word and obeying it</li> <li>• We are also "blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" ..... Eph 1:3</li> <li>• Does our doctrine need to be perfect before God uses us and blesses us with this Grace and Peace? ..... NO</li> <li>• But we do shortchange ourselves of some blessings if we harbor false teachings and practices – hence the need to continually grow in God's grace and knowledge</li> <li>• v3. <b>DIVINE POWER.</b> This power (not to work supernatural wonders, but to live an abundant or purposeful life and produce godly fruit) comes "through the KNOWLEDGE of God" ..... Prov 2:6</li> </ul>
1:4	<p><b>What are some of these "Great and Precious Promises" that enable us to "Escape Corruption"?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deut 4:40 So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments ... that it may go well with you and with your children &amp; that you may live long on the land</li> <li>• Joshua 1:7 ...be careful to do according to all the law which was given to you; so, you may have success wherever you go.</li> <li>• Psalm 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.</li> <li>• Psalm 119:11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.</li> <li>• Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom &amp; righteousness, and all these things (essentials of life – food, drink, and clothing) will be provided to you.</li> <li>• John 10:10 ... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (not in possessions, but in purpose)</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:5-7	<p><b>Knowing the Living Word (Jesus) Makes us Fruitful</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are core attributes of our Christian faith we need to have to be productive, fruitful saints – and we need to be diligent about pursuing them – Else, we become shortsighted or blind to the purpose God has for us:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faith / Substantiated belief and hope in God</li> <li>2. Goodness / Virtue / Honesty / Modesty / High Morals</li> <li>3. Knowledge /Wisdom–know what to do, when, &amp; how</li> <li>4. Temperance / Self Control / Discipline</li> <li>5. Patience / Endurance / Dependability</li> <li>6. Godliness / Graciousness / Holiness</li> <li>7. Brotherly love &lt;phileo&gt; / Friendliness / Compassion</li> <li>8. Love &lt;agape&gt; / No Hypocrisy</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
1:8-9	<p><b>Knowledge Gives Power, Ignorance Gives Blindness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge is more than book smarts – it is knowing what to do with it → and that leads to understanding and wisdom</li> <li>• Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.</li> </ul>
1:10-11	<p><b>Recalling God's Truth Strengthens Our Foundation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v10a. "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure" – or, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works &amp; glorify God" ...Mt 5:16</li> <li>• v10b. "...if you do these things, you shall never fail." Theoretically, it is possible to live a sinless life. After all, Christ was our example, and since we have "every spiritual blessings in heavenly places", and a way to escape out of every temptation, we have no excuse.</li> <li>• v11. <b>Motivation:</b> There awaits for us a glorious future</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Spiritual growth is dependent on how we deal with God's word
- In other words, we are to live by faith (in God's word)

**NEXT WEEK: 2Peter 1:12-21.** Peter spent 3 years with Jesus watching Him perform miracles. Plus, Peter worked miracles himself. Yet, he said having such power and experiences are not key to spiritual growth.

- So what is the key? It boils down again to how we handle the word of God. Do we obey some of it, most of it, or all of it?

**What if we began to treat our Bibles the way we treat our cell phones?**

**What if we...**

- ... carried it with us everywhere?** 
- ... turned back to get it if we forgot it?**
- ... checked it for messages through out the day?**
- ...used it in case of an emergency?**
- ...spent an hour or more using it each day?** 



**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 02 Mar.....	1 Peter 1:1-12.....	Our Inheritance
2) 09 Mar.....	1 Peter 1:13-25.....	Our Mandate
3) 16 Mar.....	1 Peter 2:1-10.....	Our Identify
4) 23 Mar.....	1 Peter 2:11-25.....	Our Witness
5) 30 Mar.....	1 Peter 3:1-12.....	Our Relationships
6) 06 Apr.....	1 Peter 3:13-22.....	Our Defense
7) 13 Apr.....	1 Peter 4:1-11.....	Our Faith
8) 20 Apr.....	Mark 15-16.....	EASTER – Our Savior
9) 27 Apr.....	1 Peter 4:12-19.....	Our Savior
10) 04 May.....	1 Peter 5:1-14.....	Be Prepared
<b>11) 11 May.....</b>	<b>2 Peter 1:1-21.....</b>	<b>Be Equipped</b>
12) 18 May.....	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25.....	Be Alert
13) 25 May.....	2 Peter 3:1-18.....	Be Encouraged

**INTRODUCTION**

- Peter spent 3 years with Jesus watching Him perform miracles. Plus, Peter worked miracles himself. Yet, he said having such power and experiences are not key to spiritual growth
- So, what is the key to spiritual maturity? It depends how we handle the word of God. Do we obey some of it, most of it, or all of it?

Passage	Comments
2 Peter 1:12-15	<p><b>Future Generations Depend on God's Written Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12. "...put you ALWAYS in remembrance" – we are very forgetful creatures needing constant reminders</li> <li>• As good and wise parents leave a legacy and an inheritance for their children, Peter endeavored to give his spiritual children everything they needed to live a successful life – and it begins with knowing the truth</li> <li>• Peter motivated them or stirred them up with hope for a better future if they lived according to God's word</li> </ul>
1:16-19	<p><b>Did an Experience Confirm God's Word, or Did God's Word Confirm an Experience?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter witnessed powerful and truthful experiences – even hearing God speak from Heaven, &amp; so did Judas</li> <li>• But Peter wanted his readers not to focus on an experience, but to focus on the words of the prophets – which testified of the Messiah (the Dawn Star Rising)</li> <li>• Even the Pharisees &amp; Sadducees begged Jesus for an experience, but Jesus gave them Jonah..... <a href="#">Mat 16:1-4</a></li> </ul>
Purpose of Shock and Awe Healings and Miracles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To grab the attention of the onlookers – for a season</li> <li>• To validate the message and the messenger</li> <li>• Miraculous or seemingly miraculous wonders make people form a decision and act accordingly (e.g., It's either of God, of man, of the Devil, or of natural causes?)</li> <li>• Miracles do not convince anyone to believe. In fact, they may enrage some against the miracle worker.</li> </ul>
1:20-21	<p><b>Personal Experiences Should Not Be Used to Interpret God's Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Christians say "I know that what I have seen, felt, and experienced was of God" – but Mormons and Catholics say the same thing</li> <li>• Though all good things come from above, not all good experiences are of God. Even healings and other subjective miracles can be from other sources.</li> <li>• Remember, Satan can appear as an angel of light to give good experiences, and deceive even saints by the means of miracles (<a href="#">Rev 13:14</a>), so discern all things</li> <li>• Everything must be discerned by God's objective Word, and not by subjective feelings or experiences</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Food for Thought	<p><b>Can We Expect More of the Same – More Signs and Wonders, Healings and Miracles for TODAY?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the "signs of an Apostle" (<a href="#">2Cor 12:12</a>) were continuing unabated throughout Church history, we would see more sudden deaths in churches, angelic prison escapes, people being healed by apostolic shadows and napkins, and ultimately, the continued growth of God's word well beyond our current 66 books of the Bible. <b>But We Don't!</b></li> <li>• It is not due to a lack of faith of the healer or of the sick, but by God's plan for that time period....<a href="#">Heb 2:3-4</a></li> </ul>
More Food for Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Apostle Paul and his entourage never asked for prayers to do more miracles, though they performed many themselves. Paul healed everyone on the island of Malta (<a href="#">Acts 28:2-9</a>); Paul &amp; Barnabas worked wonders in Iconium (<a href="#">14:3</a>); He healed many with his handkerchief (<a href="#">19:11-12</a>); and He raised the dead (<a href="#">20:9-10</a>); and casted out demons (<a href="#">16:18</a>)</li> <li>• They were more concerned about what they needed to say and how to say it, where to speak the Gospel, and who to speak it to, and when should they do it</li> <li>• They asked for prayers to speak boldly the right words at the right time (<a href="#">Eph 6:19-20</a>); and for open doors to declare the mystery of Christ clearly (<a href="#">Col 4:3-4</a>)</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Spiritual growth is dependent on how we take the expounded word of God, and not on our experiences or the experiences of others
- In other words, we are to live by faith (in God's word), not by sight (aka experiences)

**NEXT WEEK: 2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25.** False prophets and false teachers tell convincing stories to misguide their listeners, yet God knows how to deliver the godly out of their snares – if they'd listen.

