

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept	1 Peter 1:1-12	A Living Hope
2) 11 Sept	1 Peter 1:13-25	Be Holy
3) 18 Sept	1 Peter 2:1-10	Building Our Faith
4) 25 Sept	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living as Strangers
5) 02 Oct	1 Peter 3:1-12	Living in Relationship
6) 09 Oct	1 Peter 3:13-22	Always Ready
7) 16 Oct	1 Peter 4:1-11	Equipped to Live
8) 23 Oct	1 Peter 4:12-19	When Ridiculed
9) 30 Oct	1 Peter 5:1-14	Alert Living
10) 6 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-11	Being Useful
11) 13 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-21	With Trust
12) 20 Nov	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25	On Guard
13) 27 Nov	2 Peter 3:1-18	With Anticipation

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 cometh 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?



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