

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>Knowing God's Word Provides Grace and Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Peace is not the absence of conflict between us and others, but between us and God • If there is harmony between us and God, we are in God's will and we will get our prayers answered • God also provides Grace or providential blessings as needed to accomplish His will • KNOWLEDGE IS THE PRIMARY KEY. This grace (providential blessings) and peace with God begins with intimately knowing God's word and obeying it • We are also "blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" Eph 1:3 • Does our doctrine need to be perfect before God uses us and blesses us with this Grace and Peace? NO • 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 • v3. DIVINE POWER. 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
1:4	<p>What are some of these "Great and Precious Promises" that enable us to "Escape Corruption"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deut 4:40 So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments ... that it may go well with you and with your children & that you may live long on the land • 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. • Psalm 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. • Psalm 119:11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. • Matt 6:33 But seek first His kingdom & righteousness, and all these things (essentials of life – food, drink, and clothing) will be provided to you. • John 10:10 ... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (not in possessions, but in purpose)

Passage	Comments
1:5-7	<p>Knowing the Living Word (Jesus) Makes us Fruitful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> 1. Faith / Substantiated belief and hope in God 2. Goodness / Virtue / Honesty / Modesty / High Morals 3. Knowledge /Wisdom – know what to do, when, & how 4. Temperance / Self Control / Discipline 5. Patience / Endurance / Dependability 6. Godliness / Graciousness / Holiness 7. Brotherly love <phileo> / Friendliness / Compassion 8. Love <agape> / No Hypocrisy
1:8-9	<p>Knowledge Gives Power – Ignorance Gives Blindness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge is more than book smarts – it is knowing what to do with it → and that leads to understanding and wisdom • Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
1:10-11	<p>Recalling God's Truth Strengthens Our Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 & glorify God" Mt 5:16 • 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. • v11. Motivation: There awaits for us a glorious future

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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