

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.....	1 Peter 4:12-19.....	Our Savior
9) 27 Apr.....	1 Peter 5:1-14.....	Be Prepared
10) 04 May.....	2 Peter 1:3-11.....	Be Humble
11) 11 May.....	2 Peter 1:12-21.....	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

- 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>Future Generations Depend on God's Written Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. "...put you ALWAYS in remembrance" – we are very forgetful creatures needing constant reminders • 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 • Peter motivated them or stirred them up with hope for a better future if they lived according to God's word
1:16-19	<p>Did an Experience Confirm God's Word, or Did God's Word Confirm an Experience?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter witnessed powerful and truthful experiences – even hearing God speak from Heaven, & so did Judas • 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) • Even the Pharisees & Sadducees begged Jesus for an experience, but Jesus gave them Jonah..... Mat 16:1-4
Purpose of Shock and Awe Healings and Miracles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To grab the attention of the onlookers – for a season • To validate the message and the messenger • 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?) • Miracles do not convince anyone to believe. In fact, they may enrage some against the miracle worker.
1:20-21	<p>Personal Experiences Should Not Be Used to Interpret God's Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Christians say "I know that what I have seen, felt, and experienced was of God" – but Mormons and Catholics say the same thing • 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. • Remember, Satan can appear as an angel of light to give good experiences, and deceive even saints by the means of miracles (Rev 13:14), so discern all things • Everything must be discerned by God's objective Word, and not by subjective feelings or experiences

Passage	Comments
Food for Thought	<p>Can We Expect More of the Same – More Signs and Wonders, Healings and Miracles for TODAY?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the "signs of an Apostle" (2Cor 12:12) 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. But We Don't! • 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....Heb 2:3-4
More Food for Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (Acts 28:2-9); Paul & Barnabas worked wonders in Iconium (14:3); He healed many with his handkerchief (19:11-12); and He raised the dead (20:9-10); and casted out demons (16:18) • 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 • They asked for prayers to speak boldly the right words at the right time (Eph 6:19-20); and for open doors to declare the mystery of Christ clearly (Col 4:3-4)

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.

