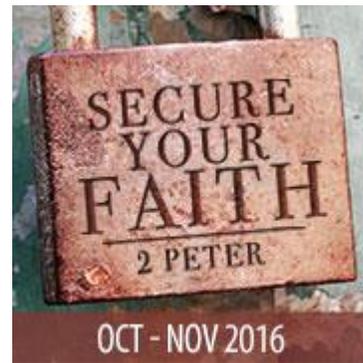


## 2 Peter Weekly Devotionals



### Introduction:

We've divided the second letter of Peter into seven weeks of Scripture reading. These divisions coincide with Pastor Jay's sermons beginning October 1 through November 13, 2016.

1. Oct. 1/2 – “The Gift of the Knowledge of Christ” II Peter 1:1-11
2. Oct. 8/9 – “Trust Only the Word!” II Peter 1:12-21
3. Oct. 15/16 – “Beware of Counterfeit Spirituality” II Peter 2:1-9
4. Oct. 22/23 – “Those Who've Gone to the Dark Side” II Peter 2:10-16; Jude 17-23
5. Oct. 29/30 – “Don't Be Fooled, Be Transformed” II Peter 2:17-22; Hebrews 6:4-10
6. Nov. 5/6 – “God Wants All to Be Saved!” II Peter 3:1-10
7. Nov. 12/13 – “How Shall We Then Live?” II Peter 3:11-18

Spend some time each week reading the passage and considering the questions that follow. There are suggestions for prayer and application, too.

*<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises....*  
2 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

Peter has a simple theme for his readers in this letter:

*pursue spiritual maturity through the Word of God  
as a remedy for false teaching and  
a right response to heretics  
in light of the promised return of Christ.<sup>1</sup>*

Are you looking forward to the day Christ returns? Then this letter is written for you, too.

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<sup>1</sup> Resources:

[insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/second-peter](http://insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/second-peter)

Jason Roach, *Explore Bible Devotional App*, The Good Book Company

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Victor Books

## Week 1 | 2 Peter 1:1-11

### Knowing and Growing

What does Peter emphasize about his readers' spiritual status in verse 1?

How do we get the blessings Peter prays for in verse 2?

How does this help when we feel like spiritual frauds compared to others? When do you need to remember this?

What about when we feel spiritually superior? When do you need to remember this?

How do we get the blessings in verses 3 and 4?

**APPLY** What does God most want for you today? How does this affect how you look at the day ahead?

**PRAY** Thank God that your faith relies on Jesus, not on your achievements. Pray that, rather than comparing yourself to others, you would appreciate all that Jesus has given you.

Talk to God about ways you are struggling to live in a godly way. Ask Him to help you to be more like Him.

Having characteristics which are increasingly like God's begins with putting our complete trust in Christ (v. 5). We can't start without faith; but we are to add to faith. In verses 5-7 some terms reinforce the general progress we should make, ("virtue" and "godliness"), but others add more specific aspects to it.

- Knowledge... When do you struggle most to work out the best way forward in daily life?
- Self-control... How do you struggle with temptations of materialism, laziness, or lust?
- Perseverance... What difficulties make it hard to persevere in joyful hope?

How does 2 Peter 1:1-4 comfort us as we consider our struggle against sin?

How can verses 3-4 encourage us to make progress in holiness?

**APPLY** What progress would a close Christian friend be seeing in your knowledge, self-control and perseverance? How could they see more?

What are the final two qualities Peter wants us to add in verse 7?

**PRAY** Thank God that you have obtained faith (v. 1) from Him.

Read through verses 5-7 again, and turn each "addition" into a prayer of thanksgiving for the progress you have made in this area, a prayer of confession for how you've gotten things wrong, and a prayer for help to change in that area.

Review 2 Peter 1:8-11. What are the primary goals or results Peter wants for his readers' lives? Are these results you want to see in your own life?

What is the positive motivation for pursuing and praying for godly qualities (v. 8)? If we don't bother, what is this a sign of according to verse 9?

Knowing what Jesus has done for us in the past must direct how we live in the present.

**APPLY** In what areas of your life would remembering that you have been cleansed from your sins make a difference in how you live?

What steps will you take to make sure you don't forget your forgiveness?

What can you do which will reassure you of the fact of your forgiveness? See also Colossians 1:9-14.

**PRAY** Thank God for calling you. Thank Him that you can know you have eternal life. Ask God to help you remember that you've been forgiven and be changed by it. Thank Him that you can be confident in your future.

## Week 2 | 2 Peter 1:12-21

### Remember!

What is Peter's priority as he comes to the end of his life (vv. 12, 15)?

**APPLY** How are you going to make sure you remember what you see in this letter?

Could you write down a sentence each day? Recite a key phrase every hour? Stick a verse on your fridge or desk? Do something else?

How does Peter claim his message, and that of all the apostles ("we"), is different (v. 16)?

What event does he specifically refer to (vv. 17-18)? (Hint: Read Matthew 17:1-8.)

**APPLY** How do Peter's words affect our certainty about Christian truth?

How might these words help the person who says Christianity is just "a leap of faith"?  
Is there someone you know who thinks that, who you could share these verses with?

Peter is speaking about the prophets' predictions in the Old Testament of Jesus' future reign.

How does Peter's past experience (v. 17-18) make the prophetic predictions about the future more certain (v. 19)?

What should our response be (v. 19)?

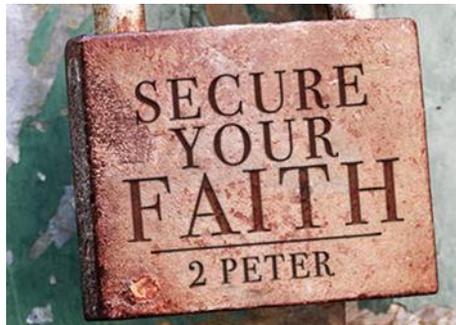
What further reason do we have to be confident in the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:20-21)?

**APPLY** How much is the Word of God a close guide for you in daily life? Do your Bible-reading and your feelings about it reflect the truths of verses 20-21?

Read Psalm 19:7-14 and underline all the benefits that the diligent reading of God's Word produces in a Christian's life.

**PRAY** Ask God to give you a renewed certainty in the reliability of His promises, and for this certainty to impact how you live today. Thank Him that you are alive at a point in time when so many promises have already been kept, giving you even greater confidence in the future.

*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man,  
but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.  
2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)*



## Week 3 | 2 Peter 2:1-9

### Beware of False Teachers

What comes to mind when you think of false teaching? It can seem like a distant and outdated reality—it could never happen at a church like ours! But the Bible never leaves us room for complacency.

Peter has just been talking about God’s Spirit-inspired Old Testament prophets. But where did “false prophets” come from according to verse 1? What is sobering about the end of verse 1?

False teachers don’t normally come along wearing “false teacher” T-shirts or shouting obvious lies. How can we spot false teachers (vv. 2-3)?

Why do you think false teachers are followed by “many” (v. 2)?

What are the false words or ideas that you would find most attractive, and so are most dangerous to you?

How does God deal with sinful:

- angels (v. 4)?
- people (vv. 5, 6)?

How does God deal with false teachers (vv. 2-3, 9)?

In our age of tolerance, the attitude of God towards sin, and particularly towards those who lie to others about who He is and what He is like, may be a challenge to us. But God wants people to know and love truth, and He condemns sin. He is always consistent.

Why do you think Peter devotes a whole section to emphasizing this?

How does Lot show us how godly people should react to false teaching and the lifestyles it promotes (vv. 7-8)?

Why is verse 9 an encouragement for people who feel as Lot did?

**APPLY** How does this passage shape and challenge your attitude toward false teaching?

**PRAY** Thank God that there is a true gospel which saves people. Ask Him to make you able to spot error which brings condemnation. Pray that you would never be misled by false teaching; and pray for church leaders, that they would teach God’s Word accurately.

## Week 4 | 2 Peter 2:10-16

### The Dark Side

Sometimes so-called Christian teaching that distorts the truth seems to flourish. It would be easy to think that God is either blessing these ministries or that He just doesn't care.

Can you think of a flourishing Christian ministry that appears to distort the truth or encourage unhelpful lifestyles? Peter shows us that social influence is not always the same as spiritual impact.

What does life look like for the false teachers now (vv. 13b-14, see also v. 2)?

Balaam (v. 15) was a freelance prophet, who blessed and cursed people for money (Numbers 22:15-17, 36-40). In order to lead God's people astray, he enticed them to have sex with foreign women (Numbers 25:1-5 and 31:16).

Why might some people be attracted to these false teachers?

Read Jude 17-23.

**APPLY** If and when you see someone enticing people away from Christian faith and getting respect and reward for it, what should you remember?

Go back and read 2 Peter 1:3-5. How could the false teachers have stayed on the right path (1:5)? Where does the power to do that come from (1:3-4)?

**PRAY** for yourself, that you would not mistake influence or respect for God's blessing on a ministry. Thank God that He cares about leaders who lie. Pray for false teachers, that they would hear the warning and return to the Savior. Pray for those who are victimized by these corrupt teachers.

## Week 5 | 2 Peter 2:17-22

### Springs Without Water

How is the behavior in verses 17-19 similar to that of the false teachers?

In what ways do people today “promise ... freedom” which is actually a type of slavery (v. 19)?

Temporary influence does not mean God doesn't care about false teachers.  
What will life look like for them in the end (vv. 12-13, 17, 20-22)?

Peter's warning is very strong (especially vv. 20-22). Such behavior from those who have once claimed to be Christians will lead to a severe judgment. Compare Peter's warning with Jesus' words in Matthew 12:43-45.

A dog returning to its vomit and washed pigs wallowing in mud (2 Peter 2:22) are intense images! For Peter, these are fitting pictures for the situation the false teachers have put themselves in.

How did the evil people of whom Peter wrote affect others? Who is most susceptible to the appeals of these evil men? (v. 18)

How did Peter say a person could escape the corruption of the world? What about someone who has escaped and then gets tangled up again? (vv. 20-21)

To what sorts of desires can we become unknowingly enslaved?

**APPLY** When are you most tempted to return to some sinful activity or attitude? Why?

**PRAY** Thank God for the true freedom that comes from knowing and obeying Jesus Christ.

*For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. 2 Peter 2:19 (ESV)*

## Week 6 | 2 Peter 3:1-10

### He is Coming!

How do you face ridicule for your beliefs? How do you tend to respond, in how you feel as well as what you say and do?

What does Peter want them to remember according to verses 1 and 2?

What does Peter hope that remembering this will do (v. 1)? Why do they need reminding (v. 3)?

**APPLY** The letters of 1 and 2 Peter both promote godly thinking. What do you see or read (voluntarily or because you have to) which does the opposite? Recall a couple of basic biblical truths you've been struck by recently (either in your devotionals or in church). What difference have they made to your thinking and your lifestyle?

Why are people scoffing in verses 3-4?

As well as facing ridicule from others suggesting that God doesn't seem to act, we too can doubt His activity in the world. God has an answer for the God-denying views of atheism, the impersonal non-god of Buddhism, and the nervous fear of Islam. And this is also an answer that speaks to Christians frustrated that God does not seem to be doing much.

**PRAY** Thank God that He is in charge, that He is the Creator, and that He is the Judge. Ask Him to help you have great confidence in these truths.

What does Peter say we must remember about God (v 8)? Why has He not yet returned to this earth in judgment (v 9)?

The fact God hasn't returned yet is not due to a lack of decision, a lack of power, or a lack of ability. It is due to a great amount of patience. But He will come.

**APPLY** When are you most tempted to think that perhaps God won't really return, and won't really judge?

God hasn't returned today (so far) because it is a day when He wants people to turn to Him so that they won't perish.

How should this affect our priorities and actions today? What specific difference will it make to you?

According to verse 10, what will the timing of His coming be like? What will happen on that day? What is Peter trying to emphasize, do you think?

This isn't simply destruction, though. The flood which "destroyed" the world (v. 6) was also a purification, a removal of evil from the world for God's people to live in. The same thing will happen—completely and irreversibly—on the final Day of the Lord.

**APPLY** Have you ever actually repented? Have you done so recently? If not, do it now!

**PRAY** Thank God for making clear where this world is heading. Thank Him for His patience in not returning yet. Ask Him to help you live each day as if Jesus could return that day; and to use each day to help others see the danger, and repent.

Resource: [download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/All\\_of\\_Life\\_Is\\_Repentance-Keller.pdf](http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/All_of_Life_Is_Repentance-Keller.pdf)

## Week 7 | 2 Peter 3:11-18

### Ready?

Have you ever found yourself frantically getting things ready for a guest to arrive? How do we prepare for the most important visitor imaginable?

What do we do if we know that God and His judgment are on their way (v. 11)?

**APPLY** In what area of life do you find it most difficult to live like this—to be distinctive and Christ-like (you might find it helpful to look back to 1:5-8)?  
What would change if you remembered that Jesus might return today?

What does verse 12 tell us about God's return? What is God's plan for the earth (v. 13)? Where do we fit into His plans for the future (v. 13)?

**APPLY** How often do you consciously look forward to your eternal future? How could you do it more often?  
How do these verses motivate you to live a holy and godly life today?

**PRAY** Heavenly Father, Thank You that Your Son is really coming. Thank You for Your patience to send Him at just the right time.  
Please help me to be prepared, at every moment, for His return. Please show me how I can encourage others to be the same. May I remember, in good times and in bad, that every day is another day closer to the new life You have promised me. Amen.

It's quite easy to be half-hearted and compromising with our sin. "It's not that bad," we think. "I'm doing better than I used to ... Everyone else does it." How does verse 14 challenge those thoughts?

What does verse 15 remind us of during times of failure?

Peter was one of Paul's closest friends. Why did Paul write, according to Peter in verse 15?

Peter uses the word *Scripture* to describe Paul's writings (v. 16). Why does this matter? What, does Peter warn, will people do with Paul's letters?

Peter suggests that false teachers will inevitably try to lead Christians astray. What two courses of action does he recommend to avoid being taken in (v. 18)?

**APPLY** How will you make "every effort" today? This week?  
What is one truth from the letter of 2 Peter you will aim to remember throughout the coming year?

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.  
2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)*

