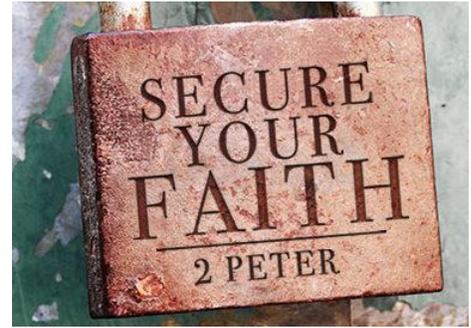


# Discussion Guide

October 30, 2016

2 Peter 2:17-22

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Last week we saw the problems of false leaders and how to identify them. This week Peter has more harsh words for false teachers and calls them waterless springs (dry) and mists driven by storm (confusing).

Read 2 Peter 2:17-22.

[Q] In this section, we are offered an even more detailed list of attributes of false leaders. What are three things that the false leaders of Peter's time were doing (vv.18–19)?

[Q] In verse 19, Peter points out that many people are promised freedom, when in fact they are enslaved. Read the following verses. What kind of freedom should believers be seeking? What have we been set free for?

1 Peter 2:16

Galatians 5:13-14

Romans 6:16-18

The false teachers Peter describes publicly confessed Christ, for they knew *the way of righteousness* (2 Peter 2:21). Yet they did not know Christ as Lord and Savior in the way a true Christian believer does.

Note on 2 Peter 2:17-22 from the *ESV Gospel Transformation Bible*:

This is a difficult passage, not least because it appears to imply the falling away of those who have been saved. But the careful reader will note that, as in Hebrews 6:4–9, whatever knowledge of the Lord (2 Pet. 2:20) those in question have obtained has not freed them from their enslavement to corruption (v. 19).

Earlier Peter has called them “creatures of instinct,” born “to be destroyed,” speaking about things of which they are actually “ignorant” (v. 12). Rather than being transformed by the power of the gospel as Peter described earlier (1:16–21), they have perhaps given the appearance of being a part of the church but have actually rejected the holy commandment (2:21). This becomes evident in their unrepentantly turning to their former defilements.

[Q] God promises that those who truly know Him will never fall away because He will keep them by His grace. What is your response when you read the following passages?

John 10:27–29

Romans 8:28–39

Philippians 1:6

1 Peter 1:3-5

[Q] In light of the danger of false teaching, how important is it that new Christians are established and grounded in their faith? What is it that a newer Christian needs specifically?

[Q] Who or what in your life has helped (or is helping) you to grow spiritually strong? Please explain.

[Q] Is there any area of practical Christian living or biblical knowledge that you would like to strengthen? If so, what?

[Q] Do you know someone who is newer in the faith that you could encourage and challenge? How will you do that?

**Pray**

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**Community Service Day** is November 19. Watch for great opportunities starting October 29 to BLESS our communities.

**Resource for information on cults and world religions:** [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org)