

THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER

Introduction: This second letter of Peter is the work of Simon Peter one of the great apostles of the Lord. It is written to the same people as first Peter, the churches of Asia Minor (1 Peter 1:1). It was written after first Peter and before Jude, probably around A.D. 66 or 67.

Read the entire book (aloud) **as a group**. A modern translation like “The Living Bible” would be best. **Discuss the general content** of the book. An example might be: Christian living & character (chapter 1), False teachers and teaching (chapter 2), The Last Days when the world will be destroyed (chapter 3).

Read 2 Peter chapter one in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (**below**). **Discuss the general content of the chapter**. An example might be: growing in the true knowledge of God (2 Peter 1:1-4), making your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:5-11), reminding the believers as Peter’s death approaches (2 Pet. 1:12-15), pay close attention to the scriptures (2 Peter 1:16-21).

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER CHAPTER 1 King James Version

2PE 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: [2] Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

[5] ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. [8] For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. [10] Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: [11] For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

[12] ¶ Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. [13] Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; [14] Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shown me. [15] Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

[16] ¶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

[19] ¶ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: [20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Instructions for the Group: Read and discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

**2 Peter Chapter I
Verse 1**

[1] Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: (King James Version)

[1] Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: **(Revised Standard Version)**

[1] Simon Peter, a bondservant and Apostle of Jesus Christ: To those to whom there has been allotted the same precious faith as that which is ours through the righteousness of our God and of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **(Weymouth Translation)**

[1] Simeon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who did obtain a like precious faith with us in the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: **(Young’s Literal Translation)**

Additional Information: The word “servant” is Strong’s number 1401 in the Greek and is doulous, doo’-los meaning **a slave, someone who is in subjection or servitude to another**. It is translated bond(man) and servant in the New Testament.

The word “apostle” is Strong’s number 652 in the Greek. apostolos ap-os'-tol-os, it means **a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially someone commissioned by Christ, with miraculous powers**. It is translated in the KJV as: **apostle, messenger, and he that is sent**.

2 Peter Chapter 1
Verses 2-3

[2] Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (King James Version).

²Do you want more and more of God's kindness and peace? Then learn to know him better and better. ³For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life: he even shares his own glory and his own goodness with us! **(The Living Bible).**

2 Grace and peace to you many times over as you deepen in your experience with God and Jesus, our Master. 3 Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! **(The Message Bible).**

[2] May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. [3] 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, **(Revised Standard Version).**

Additional Information: The Greek word for "grace" is *charis* (search for 5485 in KJV) from 5463; graciousness, of manner or act; **especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life;** including gratitude): It is translated as acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy).

The word "knowledge" used in verse 2 and again in verse 3 is *epignosis* and means a more complete comprehension after the first knowledge (*gnosis*) of a matter. It brings one into a better acquaintance of something previously known. It is a greater participation by the knower, thus more powerfully influencing him (Vine's Lexicon). The word "glory" *doxa* has a wide application. In 2 Peter 1:3 it probably refers to **the character and ways of God as exhibited through Christ.**

Virtue is the manifestation of God's divine power, particularly **moral excellence**, that is, character and behavior in conduct.

2 Peter Chapter 1
Verse 4

[4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (King James Version).

⁴God made great and marvelous promises, so that his nature would become part of us. Then we could escape our evil desires and the corrupt influences of this world. **(Contemporary English Version).**

[4] He has also given us his very great and valuable promises. He did it so you could share in his nature. He also did it so you could escape from the evil in the world. That evil is caused by sinful longings. **(The New International Reader's Version).**

2 Peter Chapter 1 Verses 5-7

[5] ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (King James Version).

[5] Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge; [6] and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness; [7] and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. **(New American Standard Bible).**

Additional Information: dil·i·gence (dĭl'ē-jens) *noun* 1. Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort; assiduity. 2. Attentive care; heedfulness. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*. The word "virtue" is arête and means moral excellence, renown or praise. The original and general sense of the word seems to be the impression made on others. It is the manifestation of His Divine power of any particular moral excellence (Vine's Greek Lexicon).

2 Peter Chapter 1 Verses 8-9

[8] For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (King James Version).

[8] These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But whoever does not have them is so shortsighted that he cannot see and has forgotten that he has been purified from his past sins. **(Today's English Version).**

[8] If you have a generous supply of these, they will not leave you ineffectual or unproductive: they will bring you to a real knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But without them a man is blind or else shortsighted; he has forgotten how his past sins were washed away. **(Jerusalem Bible).**

2 Peter Chapter 1
Verses 10-11

[10] Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: [11] For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (King James Version).

[10] Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; [11] for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. **(New American Standard Bible).**

[10] Set your minds, then, on endorsing by your conduct the fact that God has called and chosen you. If you go along these lines there is no reason why you should stumble. [11] Indeed if you live this sort of life a rich welcome awaits you as you enter the eternal kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. **(Phillips Modern English).**

¹⁰Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **(New King James Version).** **Additional Information:** *dil·i·gence* (dīl'ē-jens) *noun* **1.** Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort, assiduity. **2.** Affentive care; heedfulness. (The American Heritage Dictionary). The word "fall" in Strong's lexicon (4417) is *patio* and means to trip, to err, sin or fail (of salvation).

2 Peter Chapter 1
Verses 12-15

[12] ¶ Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. [13] Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; [14] Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shown me. [15] Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. (King James Version).

¹²You are holding firmly to the truth that you were given. But I am still going to remind you of these things. ¹³In fact, I think I should keep on reminding you until I leave this body. ¹⁴And our Lord Jesus Christ has already told me that I will soon leave it behind. ¹⁵That is why I am doing my best to make sure that each of you remembers all of this after I am gone. **(Contemporary English Version).**

2 Peter Chapter 1 Verses 16-18

[16] ¶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. (King James Version).

[16] For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

[17] For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” – [18] and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. **(New American Standard Version).**

¹⁶For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the power of our Lord Jesus Christ and his coming again. We have seen his majestic splendor with our own eyes. ¹⁷And he received honor and glory from God the Father when God’s glorious, majestic voice called down from heaven, “This is my beloved Son; I am fully pleased with him.” ¹⁸We ourselves heard the voice when we were there with him on the holy mountain. **(New Living Translation).**

Additional Information: “Fables” is the Greek word *muthos* meaning unreal and fabricated having only the appearance of truth, no truth actually contained therein. Majesty means the greatness and dignity of a sovereign. The sovereignty and power of God. Supreme authority or power, a royal personage. (American Heritage Dictionary).

2 Peter Chapter 1 Verses 19-21

[19] ¶ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: [20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (King James Version).

[19] And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. [20] But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, [21] for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. **(New American Standard Version).**

⁹Because of that, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. Pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a light shining in a dark place—until the day Christ appears and his brilliant light shines in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves ²¹or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God. **(New Living Translation).** Additional

Information: The phrase “**take heed**” is the Greek word *prosecho* and means to pay attention to and apply oneself to. It suggests devotion of thought and effort to a thing (Vine’s Greek Lexicon).
The phrase “**private interpretation**” means pertaining to self, that is, one’s own private or separate explanation (instead of God’s). (Vine’s Greek Lexicon).

Instructions for the Leader: Go to “Questions & Answers” section of this program (2 Peter Chapter 1).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Revised Standard Version. New Testament Section, First Edition, Copyright 1946. Second Edition, Copyright 1971. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Weymouth’s New Testament in Modern Speech. By Richard Francis Weymouth, as revised by J.A. Robertson. Harper and Row Publishers, Inc. and James Clarke and Company Ltd.

Young’s Literal Translation. By Robert Young. Jan. 1898.

The Living Bible. Copyright 1967 by Tyndale House Foundation, Wheaton, Illinois.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (2 Peter Chapter 1)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. Discuss and answer the questions correctly by using the Scripture.

1. **Read 2 Peter 1:1.** Simon Peter is described as: a. a servant. b. an evangelist c. an apostle d. None of the above.

Additional Information: The word “**servant**” is Strong’s number 1401 in the Greek and is doulous, doo’-los meaning **a slave, someone who is in subjection or servitude to another.** It is translated bond(man) and servant in the New Testament.

The word “**apostle**” is Strong’s number 652 in the Greek. apostolos ap-os’-tol-os, it means **a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially someone commissioned by Christ, with miraculous powers.** It is translated in the KJV as: **apostle, messenger, and he that is sent.**

2. **Read 2 Peter 1:1.** The Apostle Peter is writing to: a. non-Christians b. his mother c. old friends d. believer’s who share in common his Christian faith.
3. **Read 2 Peter 1:2 in the Living Bible & The Message Bible.** If you want more and more of God’s grace (kindness) and peace in your life, then: a. come to know God better and better (knowledge). b. attend church on Sundays. c. make sure you tithe. d. deepen in your knowledge and experience of Jesus our Lord.
4. **Read 2 Peter 1:2.** As Christians, Jesus is : a. our Lord (Master, boss, king, & authority). b. our good Samaritan. c. our Grandfather.
5. **Read 2 Peter 1:3.** Godly living comes to us by knowing God better and trusting in His: a. angels. b. Divine power. c. pastors to guide us.
6. **Read 2 Peter 1:3 in the KJV & RSV.** As Christians God has called us to: a. His own glory. b. virtue & excellence. c. become rich. d. attend several Bible studies a week.

Additional Information: The word “glory” *doxa* has a wide application. In 2 Peter 1:3 it probably refers to **the character and ways of God as exhibited through Christ.**

Virtue is the manifestation of God’s divine power, particularly **moral excellence**, that is, character and behavior in conduct.

7. **Read 2 Peter 1:4.** God made great and marvelous promises so that by these you might partake of: a. the flesh. b. the Divine nature. c. the old man & his ways.
8. **Read 2 Peter 1:4.** You can escape the evil desires and corrupt influences of this world by: a. His Divine nature. b. His exceeding & great promises. c. meditation.
9. **Read 2 Peter 1:5.** The word “**diligence**” carries the idea of: a. making every effort. b. doing your level best. c. to do something with speed & haste. d. earnestness, that is, with a purposeful and serious intent. e. all of the above. You may want to see a dictionary or Strong’s number 4710 in a Greek lexicon to confirm this answer.

Additional Information: dil·i·gence (dīl'e-jens) *noun* **1.** Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort; assiduity. **2.** Attentive care; heedfulness. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

10. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-7.** Which of the following need to be added to our Christian faith: a. virtue, moral excellence, a noble character. b. knowledge, spiritual understanding, knowing God better. c. temperance, self-control. d. patience, patient endurance, perseverance. e. godliness . f. brotherly kindness. g. charity, love.
11. **Read 2 Peter 1:8.** The person who lacks moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (verses 5-7) is: a. unhappy. b. glad. c. barren and unfruitful.
12. **Read 2 Peter 1:9.** The person who lacks moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (verses 5-7) is blind and shortsighted even to the point of: a. not attending church on Sundays. b. forgetting he was purged from his old sins.
13. **Read 2 Peter 1:10.** The person who lacks moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (verses 5-7) has: a. made his calling & election sure. b. is uncertain about his calling & election.
14. **Read 2 Peter 1:10.** A Christian is to: a. give diligence to make his calling & election sure. b. be a slacker concerning God’s calling & election.

Additional Information: dil·i·gence (dīl'e-jens) *noun* **1.** Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort; assiduity. **2.** Attentive care; heedfulness. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

15. **Read 2 Peter 1:10.** A person who has moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (verses 5-7) in his Christian life shall: a. stumble and fall. b. never fall.

Additional Information: The word “fall” in Strong’s lexicon (4417) is *patio* and means **to trip, to err, sin, or fail** (of salvation).

16. **Read 2 Peter 1:10-11.** When a Christian has made his calling and election sure by adding to his faith, moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (verses 5-7), not only will he not fall but it is as if the narrow road of entrance has been broadened. So the entrance is: a. blocked. b. barely seen. c. supplied abundantly into the everlasting kingdom.

17. **Read 2 Peter 1:12 (CEV).** Even though the believers Peter was speaking to were holding firmly to the truth they were given, Peter was still going to remind them of what? They had everything they need to live a godly life, they had the Divine nature, they were to add to their faith, moral excellence, knowledge of God, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. They were to be diligent to make their calling and election sure, etc.

18. **Read 2 Peter 1:13-15.** The Lord Jesus showed Peter that his death would be soon, that is why he was doing his best to: a. enjoy life. b. save a lot of money. c. make sure they remember his instructions long after he is gone.

19. **Read 2 Peter 1:16.** Peter in making known to the believers the power and the coming (or return) of the Lord Jesus, was not using: a. the wisdom of intellectuals. b. a rumor that he heard. c. cunning devised fables, that is, clever stories that were made up.

20. **Read 2 Peter 1:16.** Peter was an eyewitness to the Majesty. This is a reference to Jesus as: a. the Messianic King. b. most popular teacher of his day. c. a Rabbi.

Additional Information: **maj·es·ty** (məj'î-stê) *noun*

plural maj·es·ties

1. **a.** The greatness and dignity of a sovereign. **b.** The sovereignty and power of God.
2. Supreme authority or power: *the majesty of the law*.
3. **a.** A royal personage. **b. Majesty**

Abbr. M.. Used with *His, Her,* or *Your* as a title and form of address for a sovereign.

4. **a.** Royal dignity of bearing or aspect; grandeur. **b.** Stately splendor; magnificence, as of style or character. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

21. **Read 2 Peter 1:17-19.** God the Father honored His Son when He spoke from heaven, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!” Peter, James and John heard this voice that came from heaven (Matt. 17:1-9; Mk. 9:2-10; Lk. 9:28-36). Yet their conclusion is that there is a word even more sure than the audible voice of God, it is the prophets, that is, the Holy Scriptures. Peter tells us that we should: a. read the Christmas story from the Bible on Christmas. b. take heed, pay attention and follow the Scriptures closely.
22. **Read 2 Peter 1:20 in the KJV & NASV.** No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of: a. Jewish tradition. b. one’s own interpretation (we should be looking for God’s interpretation, not our own).
23. **Read 2 Peter 1:21 in NASV.** No prophecy of Scripture was ever written as a mere: a. suggestion that it could be a best seller in book stores. b. act of human will.
24. **Read 2 Peter 1:21.** Scripture was written (spoken from God) as men were moved on (led or guided) by: a. their wives. b. their friends. c. the Holy Spirit.

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