

Metro Women's Bible Study

2 Peter 1:5-11

Lesson 2

Peter shared a great concern for the false teaching that had already emerged in the first century church. Before Peter addressed the counterfeits in the church, Peter described the true believers. The best way to detect a counterfeit is to know the real thing. The best way to know that you are real is to have behavior that reflects what God has accomplished in your life. May this lesson be both assuring and challenging to you.

DAY ONE: Read 2 Peter 1:5-11

Inductive Bible study "immerses" you in the environment of the passage! Instead of being an apathetic passive reader, you become engaged, and actively involved even anticipating insights your diligence will yield. In short your Scripture reading instead of being drudgery becomes a delight!

1. Read through 2 Peter 1:5-11 two times using your Observation Worksheet and another translation if you desire.

2. 2 Peter 1:5-11 is one section/paragraph. List below the subjects(s) covered in this section.
 - a. How would you title this section?

OPTIONAL: (but very beneficial) From the list below, record the key words and their symbol (which you have chosen) on the Key Word and Symbol Chart.

Previous Key Words: *God, Jesus, knowledge, and glory*

New to this Lesson: *diligence/diligent*

OPTIONAL: (but very beneficial) Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 2 Peter 1:5-11. Remember, as you mark the word *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Him. You do not need to mark every word that refers Him – only those that you feel are significant.

3. As you read through 2 Peter 1:1-11, note the promises in these verses. What are they?
 - a. Are these promises conditional? If so, what are the conditions?

4. Peter used the contrasting term *but* in verse 5. What is being contrasted? See verse 4

DAYS TWO & THREE: Read 2 Peter 1:5-7

In the previous verses Peter reminds us of ***all that has been given to us through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord***. Now in verse 5 Peter exhorts us to ***respond*** to God's provision by urging us to grow in spiritual maturity. This is where our faith becomes active! The **Amplified Version** reads: "For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in [exercising] virtue [develop] knowledge (intelligence)"

1. Verse 5 begins with, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith..." Look up the word *add* in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Add-

2. The sanctification process is life long for every Believer who is a partaker of His "**divine nature**." God **has** given us all the necessary spiritual resources, but now we are responsible to use them. It **will** take effort but not **self effort**! What is the difference between the two? Can you recognize when you are using self effort? How?

Warren Wiersbe Quote: "In the first four verses of 2 Peter we are reminded that our lives as believers began with *faith*. "And beside this" (**v. 5**) indicates that there is something beyond the new birth; there is growth. It is not enough to be born into God's family; we must also grow spiritually. This demands diligence and earnestness; a lazy, careless Christian does not grow. Peter lists the spiritual characteristics that ought to be seen in the believer's life. These graces relate to each other the way the branch relates to the trunk and the twigs to the branch. Like the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22-23), these qualities grow out of life and out of a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not enough for the Christian to "let go and let God," as though spiritual growth were God's work alone. Literally, Peter wrote, "Make every effort to bring alongside." The Father and the child must work together.

3. Listed below are the characteristics we are to add to our faith from verses 5-7. Write a brief definition next to each one. You can use a **Dictionary** and your **Concordance**.

Moral Excellence-

Knowledge-

a. Why would knowledge be important? What kind of knowledge is important if you already have faith?

“Knowledge can be dangerous if it doesn’t lead to wisdom.”

Self-control (Temperance)-

a. Where does self-control come from? Can it be a matter of determination? What if discipline is not natural for you? Read Galatians 5:22-23 to answer these questions.

Galatians 5:22-23 ²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*”

Perseverance (Patience) –

a. As you look at the following verses note next to each one what you learn about perseverance.

Luke 8:15 ¹⁵“But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.”

Romans 5:3-4 ³“And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

James 1:3-4 ²“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Revelation 2:2-3 ²“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

b. Self-control has to do with handling the pleasures of life, while perseverance relates to the pressures and problems of life. Describe how the importance of perseverance can keep you from stumbling?

c. Is there any area of your life in which you are failing to persevere? If so, why?

Godliness-

This character trait distinguishes the true believer from the ungodly false teachers in Chapter 2. Godliness describes a lifestyle of showing reverence for God as we live before others, especially the lost. We may say we worshipped God on Sunday but what was Monday like?

Brotherly kindness-

Love-

a. How does love differ from Brotherly Kindness?

b. Read 1 John 4:7-11. Record all the things you learn about love from this passage.

1 John 4:7-11 ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Peter tells us to *give all diligence* to adding these characteristics to our faith. One definition of diligence is “*do your best*”. God has provided the resources and the strength yet, we are to do our best to grow in these characteristics. This would indicate that these characteristics do not naturally spring forth from a believer. I don’t know about you but this makes me feel a bit better knowing that all of us are at the same place! These character traits are not natural to me, but I want them to become more so as I work at putting them into practice with the help of the Holy Spirit!

4. Let’s bring this week’s lesson to a close with a little self-examination. Are any of these qualities lacking in your life? If so, which one(s)?

a. What did you learn from these that will enable you to make changes?

DAY FOUR: Read 2 Peter 1:8-10

1. 2 Peter 1:8 reveals benefits to those who possess the attributes of 2 Peter 1:5-7. What are they?

a. 2 Peter 1:8b NIV reads: “*they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” Consider the strong implications of this in relationship to your Christian life. How does this speak to you?

2. Consider the word *abound* in this verse. Not only are *these things* to be in our lives, they are to *abound* or *be increasing in measure*. These character qualities should be multiplying in us. In what way does this challenge you to do your part in this process? Give an example.

Peter now turns the thoughts of his readers in the opposite direction and shows the dreadful effects of a lack of diligence.

3. According to 2 Peter 1:9, what is the problem of the one who *lacks these things*? Literally it means, "*He in whom these things are not present.*"

a. To be spiritually *blind and shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him* (AMP) is a terrible condition to be in. Unfortunately, this description certainly fits many in the church today. Too many Christians are focused on this world and all that is in the world, and as a result have no vision for the things of the Spirit of God and for the kingdom of God. What can we do to avoid this condition?

The weakness of spiritual sight, insight, and foresight is due to unfaithfulness in Christian living!

b. Look at verse 9b. How is it possible for you and I to forget what Christ has done for us?

It seems too terrible to consider that we could actually forget our experience of conversion and the joy of our salvation, being cleansed and freed from guilt and shame!! Yet, all this is possible and is a result of an unwillingness to "add diligently" after receiving God's gifts!

4. The words *call* and *election* have to do with our salvation, which we have already *obtained* (refer back to 2 Peter 1:1. How does 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 give further understanding to these terms?

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 ¹³"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

5. Jesus is the One who has made *our calling and election sure*. However, what we do in response to that gives us great assurance that we are truly saved. According to 2 Peter 1:10, what can we do to *make our calling and election sure* and prevent *stumbling*?

6. Look up the word diligent in your Concordance and write out the English translation.
Diligent-

a. In what ways are we to be diligent to? You may use scriptures to back up your answer.

7. Genuine faith is confirmed by inward and outward qualities that reflect His *divine nature*. A promise is given in 2 Peter 10b to those whose lives give evidence of character development. What is that promise?

a. Picture when a person *stumbles* physically. What parallels do you see?

8. Consider the following *exceedingly great and precious promise* from Jude 1:24 (NLT). *And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence innocent of sin and with great joy.* How does this promise correspond with 2 Peter 1:10b?

DAY FIVE: Read 2 Peter 1:11

1. What is promised in 2 Peter 1:11 to those who meet the conditions of 2 Peter 1:5-10?

a. The *everlasting kingdom* refers to the eternal domain where Jesus Christ rules in Sovereign power. How does Daniel 7:(13)14 enhance your understanding of this *kingdom*?

2. Consider the word *abundantly* from 2 Peter 1:11. Look up the word in your Concordance and write out the English translation.

Abundantly-

a. How does the meaning of this word speak to you?

3. In 2 Peter 1:11, the mention of an abundant entrance seems to imply that a believer's entrance into heaven may be qualified. In other words, the entrance for some might not be so abundant. Let's look at some of the passages that might clarify this a little more. Read them below and record what you learn from these passages concerning our entrance into the Kingdom?

1 John 2:28 ²⁸*And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*"

2 John 1:8 ⁸*Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that ⁶we may receive a full reward.*"

Mark 4:20-25 ²⁰*But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred.*" ²¹*Also He said to them, "Is a lamp*

brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? ²²For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” ²⁴Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. ²⁵For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

Luke 12:42-48 ⁴²And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? ⁴³Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. ⁴⁵But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”

4. Read the following segment from the well known theologian **B. B. Warfield**.

**“Peter exhorts us to make our calling and election sure, precisely by diligence in good works. He does not mean that by good works we may secure from God a degree of election. He means that by expanding the spiritual life which we have received from God by working out our salvation, of course not without Christ but in Christ, we can make ourselves sure that we have really received the election to which we make claim. Good works become thus the mark and test of election. And when taken in the comprehensive sense in which Peter is here thinking of them, they are the only marks and test of election. We can never know that we are elected of God to eternal life except by manifesting in our lives the fruits of election...faith and virtue, knowledge and temperance, patience and godliness, love of the brethren. It is idle to seek assurance of election outside holiness of life. Precisely what God chose His people to before the foundation of the world was that they should be holy. Holiness because it is the necessary product is therefore the sure sign of election
This future eternal kingdom is the goal of our pilgrimage.”**

a. Underline, highlight, or write out what you gleaned from the above quote?

DAY SIX: Review 2 Peter 1:5-11

1. We have seen in this lesson the necessity of *adding to our faith*. What would you say to a believer who said, “I don’t have to do anything, Jesus has done it all”?

2. How have you discovered:

- a. *adding* godly characteristics *to your faith* to be an assurance of your salvation?
 - b. *lacking* godly characteristics to contribute to your *stumbling*?
3. How does the promise of 2 Peter 1:11 deepen your desire to *diligently* apply 2 Peter 1:5-7?
4. In what specific ways have you been challenged by this lesson?
5. Record in your Worksheets what you have learned about **“Truths about God, Truths about Jesus, Truths about the Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer, and Instructions.”**

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, - Hebrews 6:11