

WEEK 6

I DON'T KNOW HIM:

A STORY OF FAILURE

FIRST BAPTIST church

Cultivating Love, Choosing Progress, Cherishing Civility

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☐	Day 1	1 Peter 1:1-2	☐	Day 21	1 Peter 4:12-15
☐	Day 2	1 Peter 1:3-8	☐	Day 22	1 Peter 4:16-19
☐	Day 3	1 Peter 1:9-12	☐	Day 23	1 Peter 5:1-4
☐	Day 4	1 Peter 1:13-16	☐	Day 24	1 Peter 5:5-11
☐	Day 5	1 Peter 1:17-21	☐	Day 25	1 Peter 5:12-14
☐	Day 6	1 Peter 1:22-25	☐	**Day 26**	**2 Peter 1:1-2**
☐	Day 7	1 Peter 2:1-3	☐	**Day 27**	**2 Peter 1:3-8**
☐	Day 8	1 Peter 2:4-7	☐	**Day 28**	**2 Peter 1:9-11**
☐	Day 9	1 Peter 2:8-12	☐	**Day 29**	**2 Peter 1:12-16**
☐	Day 10	1 Peter 2:13-17	☐	**Day 30**	**2 Peter 1:17-21**
☐	Day 11	1 Peter 2:18-21	☐	Day 31	2 Peter 2:1-4
☐	Day 12	1 Peter 2:22-25	☐	Day 32	2 Peter 2:5-8
☐	Day 13	1 Peter 3:1-6	☐	Day 33	2 Peter 2:9-12
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☐	Day 15	1 Peter 3:8-12	☐	Day 35	2 Peter 2:18-22
☐	Day 16	1 Peter 3:13-17	☐	Day 36	2 Peter 3:1-3
☐	Day 17	1 Peter 3:18-22	☐	Day 37	2 Peter 3:4-7
☐	Day 18	1 Peter 4:1-3	☐	Day 38	2 Peter 3:8-10
☐	Day 19	1 Peter 4:4-7	☐	Day 39	2 Peter 3:11-16
☐	Day 20	1 Peter 4:8-11	☐	Day 40	2 Peter 3:17-18



Requests	Answers



NOTE: The foundation of spiritual growth is your understanding of God's Word.
Each week, bring your Bible and your study guide to the group meeting.

CONNECT ..... 15 minutes

1. Take a few moments to catch up on current events in your lives.

2. Share insights from the devotional section of **Follow Me: Stories from the Life of Peter**.

GROW ..... 30 minutes

2 Peter 1 frames sanctification around divine empowerment. God supplies everything necessary for godly living through knowledge of Christ, who called believers through his glory and excellence. The passage then pivots to human responsibility – believers must actively cultivate virtues by adding moral excellence to faith, knowledge to excellence, self-control to knowledge, and continuing through patient endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love.

The early verses teach a careful balance between faith and ethical action, where faith functions as the foundation and gift from God but is realized through daily practice of virtue in community. Growth in these qualities increases believers' effectiveness and usefulness in knowing Christ, while those who neglect this development become spiritually shortsighted, forgetting their cleansing from past sins.

God's promises enable believers to share in the divine nature and escape worldly corruption caused by human desires. Participation in divine nature functions both as the desired end of Christian life and as the means by which believers embody and live out this end through participation in God's life. Participation in divine nature operates as an ethical goal rather than merely a mystical reality. Believers flee from sin and progressively move toward God-likeness and moral perfection. Working hard to demonstrate one's calling and election through these practices prevents spiritual falling away and secures entrance into Christ's eternal kingdom.

2 Peter 1 presents God's divine power as the foundational resource enabling believers to live godly lives. Rather than viewing this power as distant or inaccessible, Peter emphasizes that this power is available to Christians for whatever challenges they encounter. Believers access this power through deepening their relationship with God.

The passage develops this theme by connecting divine power to concrete spiritual transformation. God's glory and excellence provide believers with promises that enable them to participate in his divine nature and escape corruption rooted in human desires. This divine power is the same power God exercised in raising Christ from the dead, now made available to the

church. The Greek term for power here denotes God's inherent potency – built-in strength that equips believers to live the Christian life.

Rather than beginning with arguments against false teachers, Peter first reminds believers of what they've already received – their standing in God's grace and their participation in God's own life. This foundation then motivates believers to respond actively by cultivating virtues ranging from faith through moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. Peter grounds this teaching in eyewitness testimony to Christ's powerful coming, anchoring his claims about divine power in apostolic authority rather than speculation.

Second Peter 1 views spiritual growth as rooted in divine provision – God supplies everything necessary for godly living through intimate knowledge of him. This foundation includes promises that enable believers to share in God's divine nature and resist worldly corruption.

The pathway to growth unfolds through a series of interconnected qualities. Peter calls believers to intentionally build upon their faith by adding moral excellence, then knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and ultimately love for all people.

Developing these virtues increases one's effectiveness and usefulness in understanding Christ. Conversely, stagnation in spiritual development leads to spiritual blindness – a failure to recognize or remember what God has accomplished. Peter's concept of "participating in the divine nature" refers to spiritual growth and godliness rather than humans becoming divine beings.

The passage connects personal spiritual development to assurance and future reward. By actively cultivating these qualities, believers demonstrate their authentic calling and election, securing their entrance into God's eternal kingdom. This dynamic – where spiritual growth itself provides confirmation of one's salvation and future inheritance – parallels similar themes in 1 John.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- ✓ What character qualities do you find most attractive in other people?

- ✓ If you knew you were about to die and had time to make only one phone call or write one letter, whom would you contact? Why?

Read **2 Peter 1** and interact with the following questions:

Greetings from Peter

"This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. **2** *May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord."*

Growing in Faith

3 *"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.* **4** *And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.* **5** *In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,* **6** *and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,* **7** *and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.* **8** *The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* **9** *But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.* **10** *So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.* **11** *Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Paying Attention to Scripture

12 *"Therefore, I will always remind you about these things – even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught.* **13** *And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live.* **14** *For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life,* **15** *so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.* **16** *For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes* **17** *When he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'* **18** *We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.* **19** *Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place – until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.* **20** *Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding,* **21** *or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."* [1]

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY:

1. What did Peter urge his readers to add to their faith? (1:5-7)

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[1] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 2 Pe 1:1–21.

2. How did Peter encourage his audience? (1:5-7)

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3. What did Peter want his audience to be eager to do? Why? (1:10-11)

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4. What happens when we pursue the qualities Peter described? (1:11)

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5. What gave Peter credibility? (1:16)

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6. What did Peter tell his readers that they should do? (1:19)

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7. What did Peter want his readers to understand? (1:20)

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8. What makes prophecy special? (1:21)

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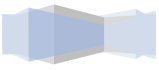

2 PETER 1 ON PROPHECY:

Peter grounds his readers' confidence in the prophetic message by pointing them to Scripture as a reliable guide. He describes it as *"like a lamp shining in a dark place"* that illuminates their path until Christ's return.

The passage makes two claims about prophecy's nature. First, prophecy did not originate from the prophets' own understanding or human initiative, but rather the Holy Spirit moved the prophets to speak from God. This emphasizes that prophetic utterance flows from divine agency rather than human reasoning or personal insight.

Second, the passage addresses how prophecy should be received and interpreted. Peter states that *"no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,"* meaning Scripture does not find its origin in the minds of individuals. Scholars debate whether this phrase primarily concerns the *origin* of prophecy or its *interpretation*. While Peter deals extensively with false teachers misinterpreting Scripture elsewhere in the epistle, the immediate context focuses on the origin of Scripture, making it difficult to explain verse 21's relevance if verse 20 refers only to interpretation.

The certainty of the Christian message in verses 16-18 is grounded in the apostles' personal experience. In verses 19-21 that message is grounded in the certainty of prophetic revelation. By connecting his eyewitness testimony to the transfiguration with the authority of Old Testament prophecy, Peter establishes a two-fold foundation for Christian confidence – both apostolic witness and divinely-inspired Scripture converge to confirm Christ's power and coming.

THINKING THROUGH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PASSAGE:

9. Which qualities listed by Peter do you consider to be important to add to your faith? Why?

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10. How can the qualities Peter mentioned keep us from being ineffective and unproductive?

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11. Why do we need to have our memory refreshed about biblical truths?

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12. How do you need to change your Bible study habits in light of Scripture's importance?

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_____

HOW GOD WANTS ME TO APPLY THIS PASSAGE TO MY LIFE:

13. How will you add a godly quality to your faith today?

_____

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14. What portion of Scripture that you have neglected will you take the time to study this week?

_____

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SHARE ..... 10 minutes

Seek to invest in others who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and invite them to FBC.

SERVE ..... 5 minutes

Record progress on your service project …

_____

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_____

WORSHIP ..... 15 minutes

Pray that God will keep you rooted in His word and that you will not neglect His truth.

Devotional Day 26:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 2 Peter 1:1-2 and The Devotional Thought

"This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. **2** *May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord."* [2]

Devotional Thought

Jesus Christ, who is just and fair, is both God and Savior. Jesus is identified in this way through a specific grammatic construction. Both "God" and "Savior" appear under a single Greek article. When two singular common nouns describe a person; are connected by an additive conjunction; and the definite article precedes only the first noun, both nouns refer to the same person. Therefore, Jesus Christ is clearly identified as both "God" and "Savior."

In 2 Peter, Peter emphasizes Christ's deity, perhaps in response to false teachers denying the future coming of Christ. By highlighting Jesus' honor, glory, and majesty, Peter establishes that Jesus is fully divine and thus the sovereign Lord of history who will fulfill all His promises. Since Christ is God, He possesses the ability to provide the sound doctrine, for all our needs and to give us a full experience of life. This verse stands as one of the most direct assertions of Christ's deity in the New Testament. While 1 Peter emphasizes Christ's sufferings, 2 Peter focuses on the person, nature and role of Christ.

Knowing God is the driving force of holiness. Those who know God in his sinlessness and love turn away from sin and love one another. Grace and peace abound when believers know God more deeply through life's experiences. Suffering, loss, persecution, and pain train those whose faith is in Christ to know him more fully, love him more dearly, and walk more closely with him.

Grace and peace are multiplied to Christians as they come to know Jesus Christ better. The more Christians realize the meaning of Jesus Christ, the more they realize the meaning of grace and the experience of peace. Growing in grace and peace involves deepening your relationship with Christ through intentional spiritual practices while recognizing that transformation ultimately flows from God's work within you. Maturing as a Christian through grace is about becoming more like Christ through the sanctification process. This growth happens in two interconnected ways. You develop grace through active exercise of spiritual virtues and by progressing from one level of spiritual maturity to another. Authentic growth occurs proportionally across all virtues rather than developing unevenly. Spiritual development flourishes when every grace develops together.

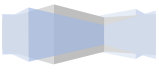
The pathway to sanctification involves concrete disciplines. Engage regularly with Scripture, allowing God's Word to shape your thinking, and meditate on biblical principles while yielding to the Holy Spirit's conviction and power within you. Cultivate humility by recognizing your own weakness and corruption, which naturally produces spiritual growth as you look at yourself with a proper, godly perspective. Christian maturity depends not on your efforts alone but on what God accomplishes in you through His grace. Guard against pride and cultivate humility.

[2] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 2 Pe 1:1–2.

Reflect: Focus your thoughts on what God has revealed to you through your reading.

Record: Your thoughts, impressions, things to remember, & an application statement.

Request: Based on what you have learned today, write out a prayer to God.



Devotional Day 27:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 2 Peter 1:3-8 and The Devotional Thought

3 *"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.* **4** *And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.* **5** *In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,* **6** *and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,* **7** *and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.* **8** *The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* [3]

Devotional Thought

God gives us everything we need for godly living. We receive these gifts by coming to know Him. He has given us *"great and precious promises."* These promises give us the power to escape the world's corruption. Our response to God's promises is faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. As we grow in these areas, we become more productive and useful in our *"knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Participating in the divine nature represents a union with God that operates on multiple levels. This participation involves an intimate and transformative engagement with God's divine attributes, not a loss of personal identity or absorption into deity. The concept emphasizes active participation, a personal and intimate fellowship. Believers become united with Christ while retaining their individual identities. They are adopted into the divine family. Through God's grace, humans participate in the divine nature and become increasingly conformed to Christ's likeness.

Participating in the divine nature means taking part in God's immortality and incorruption. Yet this participation entails not only forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God but also the ongoing process of spiritual growth and conformity to Christ. The point of salvation is not merely to avoid judgment, but to be joined with God in eternal participation in divine life. It is a relational reality.

Avoid treating these seven qualities as sequential stages. You shouldn't assume you must master one virtue before advancing to the next; instead, you continually grow in all of them simultaneously. The virtues develop as you exercise one quality alongside another. Build community into your growth. The transformation toward Christian character happens in company with other believers. Make yourself accountable to a small group of trusted believers. Seek out Christians who exemplify these qualities to mentor you. Use your faith community as an environment to practice them. Create space for genuine dialogue about faith and beliefs. When you facilitate conversations and study the Bible together, you enable critical thinking and deeper understanding.

[3] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 2 Pe 1:3–8.

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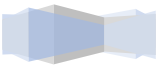

Devotional Day 28:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 2 Peter 1:9-11 and The Devotional Thought

9 *"But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.* **10** *So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.* **11** *Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* [4]

Devotional Thought

Peter now contrasts the preferred development with what happens to those who fail to progress in their spiritual maturity. They become *"shortsighted or blind"* and forget that *"they have been cleansed from their old sins."* Peter encourages his readers to work hard as proof of their chosen status and thus never to *"fall away."* God provides a "grand entrance" into the Kingdom.

Peter calls believers to demonstrate their calling and election through godly living, promising that those who practice such virtues will never fall away and will receive a grand entrance into God's eternal kingdom. This passage establishes assurance through an active, visible relationship between faith and conduct.

The connection operates in two directions. Assurance develops as believers see godly virtues increasing in their current walk, while those lacking these qualities demonstrate spiritual blindness and forget their cleansing from sin. The easiest way to undermine assurance is remaining in sin. Peter treats forgetfulness of forgiveness seriously, viewing the godly qualities he lists as necessary to confirm one's calling.

This does not mean salvation depends on earning assurance through works. Peter avoids works-righteousness by grounding his exhortations in God's prior grace. He urges readers to pursue virtues because God has already given them what they need for godly living, with faith mentioned first to show that goodness flows from faith rather than replacing it. Since God's calling and election are already certain from His perspective, the command to make them sure addresses the believer's perspective. God desires our assurance. It is best achieved through pursuing godly virtues and active Christian growth.

Assurance grows both through resting in Christ's saving work and through spiritual progress. The passage thus presents assurance not just as static certainty based on a past decision, but as deepening confidence rooted in genuine transformation.

Scripture can anchor doubt-stricken faith in several concrete ways. When facing doubt, reminding yourself of God's promises in Scripture provides stability and security, helping you remain steadfast even when facing uncertainty. Reading and meditating on the Bible builds confidence in God and his plans, countering the lies and doubts that creep in. God's promise to never leave or forsake you offers particular encouragement to persevere. The key is that verses do not work magically in isolation. They function as anchors within a larger spiritual practice of study, prayer, community, and honest engagement with your questions.

[4] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 2 Pe 1:9–11.

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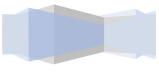

Devotional Day 29:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 2 Peter 1:12-16 and The Devotional Thought

12 *"therefore, I will always remind you about these things – even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught.* **13** *And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live.* **14** *For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life,* **15** *so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone.* **16** *For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes …"*[5]

Devotional Thought

Peter asserts the need for his readers to be reminded of the important teachings he has given them through the Christ. Peter feels his end is near, so he continually reminds them and encourages the people to stand firm in the truth so that they will not forget it in the future. He insists on the truth and validity of the stories they shared. They witnessed *"the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* The *"majestic splendor"* of Jesus was not something they would soon forget.

Peter's eyewitness account carries foundational weight for early Christian claims about Jesus. As arguably the most significant figure in New Testament history after Jesus, Peter's importance stems partly from his extended visibility throughout the period. The book of Acts and Peter's letters identify him explicitly as an "eyewitness" of Jesus' life, sufferings, and resurrection.

The significance becomes clearer when examining how Peter's testimony shaped the Gospel accounts themselves. According to ancient literary standard practices, the most authoritative eyewitness is one who is present from the events' beginning to end. They are able to vouch for the overall shape and specific key moments of the events. Mark's Gospel frames Peter as precisely this figure. Since Matthew and Luke built their accounts on Mark's Gospel, Peter's witness has directly or indirectly shaped the entire synoptic tradition. (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)

Peter emphasized the distinction between fabrication and historical truth. In 2 Peter, where he insists the apostles did not follow "cleverly devised myths" but rather reported what they had witnessed, their declaration regarding the transfiguration was, "it is the historical truth; it really did happen; I saw it; I was there." This eyewitness foundation matters because the Gospels place readers in close contact with those who witnessed Jesus' history. The Gospel writers presented their accounts based on and incorporating eyewitness testimony. Their literary strategies aim not to replace but to preserve that testimony in permanent form.

Standing firm rests on God's active preservation rather than human willpower alone. Biblical perseverance draws its strength from the power, blessing, and preservation of God. Ultimately, as believers embrace God's preserving grace, they may rest assured that the transition from death to life is irreversible. Perseverance becomes a call to faithfulness, yet also an affirmation that God will bring His committed people through life's difficulties to their promised destiny in Christ.

[5] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 2 Pe 1:12–16.

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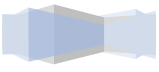

Devotional Day 30:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 2 Peter 1:17-21 and The Devotional Thought

17 *"…when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'* **18** *We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.* **19** *Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place – until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.* **20** *Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding,* **21** *or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."* [6]

Devotional Thought

Verse 17 continues Peter's recollection of The Transfiguration. Jesus received "honor and glory" from the Father with a powerful proclamation that stated, *"This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."* The voice of God was heard by all those present. The event provided a great confidence in the prophetic message delivered through faithful prophets. These prophets were *"moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."* Peter commands that believers pay close attention to what the prophets wrote. These words furnish light in the darkness.

The heavenly voice at the transfiguration affirmed Jesus' deity and God's favor on His ministry. This declaration functions as divine validation of Jesus' identity and authority at a pivotal moment. The voice's affirmation connects to Old Testament messianic prophecy – specifically Psalm 2:7, which originally applied to royal coronation but came to be understood as messianic kingship, and Isaiah 42:1, where God declares of His Servant: *"This is My Chosen One; I delight in Him."* Together, these connections stress that Jesus fulfilled God's promises concerning both the messianic King and the Suffering Servant.

The significance becomes even clearer when considering Peter's purpose in recounting this experience. Peter understood Jesus' transfiguration as His receiving honor and glory from God. Honor gave Him preeminence and glory expressed praise. Together they demonstrated the Father's approval of His Son. By emphasizing this heavenly testimony, Peter refuted false teachers' identification of Jesus as only a minor, lesser being. The heavenly voice made this same declaration to Jesus at His baptism, reinforcing consistency in God's witness across crucial moments in Jesus' ministry.

When we understand prophecy, it strengthens our faith by anchoring us in assurance about God's character and plan. When biblical prophecies prove accurate, they validate the Bible's reliability and build confidence in its message. This foundation matters. Prophetic knowledge equips Christians to defend their faith against skepticism. Prophecy reorients your priorities. As you grasp coming events, evangelism becomes more urgent; the supernatural feels more real and active; and prayer grows more passionate.

[6] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 2 Pe 1:17–21.

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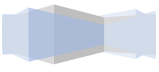



FBC Growth Group Covenant

Congratulations on your desire to grow deeper in your relationship with God through this weekly study and the relationships that will begin as a result of your participation.

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into a covenant with the other group members. You are requested to make this Growth Group a priority; by making the following commitments:

- ☐ I will make this group a priority by attending each week (call if I'm going to be absent or late), keeping up with my assignments and participating openly in group discussion.
- ☐ I will regularly attend church services and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance, giving, service and inviting of others.
- ☐ I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs.
- ☐ I will avoid gossip (including, what happens in the group stays in the group) and immediately resolve any concerns by following the "conflict resolution" principles of Matthew 18:15-17.
- ☐ I will limit my freedom by not serving or consuming alcohol during growth group meetings or events so as to avoid causing a weaker brother or sister to stumble. (1 Cor. 8:1-13; Romans 14:19-21)
- ☐ I will serve with my group once a month during the semester and will participate in a mission project and play together with my group once.
- ☐ I will honestly explore my next steps for spiritual growth and give permission for other group members to speak God's truth into my life.

_____ _____

NAME (Signature) DATE



I DON'T KNOW HIM: A STORY OF FAILURE

Peter's Denies Jesus

Mark 14:27-31, 66-72

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, Peter – this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.' 'No!' Peter declared emphatically. 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!'" – **Mark 14:30-31 (NLT)**

"And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: 'Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.' And he broke down and wept." – **Mark 14:72 (NLT)**

"The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked." – **Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)**

A Biblical Path to Rising Above Failure

Lessons from the Life of Peter

➢ DEAL WITH THE EMOTIONS OF MY FAILURE.

"And [Peter] broke down and wept." – **Mark 14:72c (NLT)**

"For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death." – **2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT)**

➢ DRAW CLOSE TO JESUS DURING MY FAILURE.

(Jesus) *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."* – **Luke 22:31-32 (NLT)**



This Week's Follow Me Principle: <u>JESUS FORGIVES ME WHEN I FAIL</u>.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." – **1 John 1:9 (NLT)**

- DETERMINE <u>THE SOURCE OF</u> MY FAILURE.

"Peter said to him, 'Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will. …. Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!'" – **Mark 14:29, 31 (NLT)**

"Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good." – **Psalm 127:1 (NLT)**

- DEVELOP <u>MY FAITH THROUGH</u> MY FAILURE.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." – **Romans 8:28 (NLT)**

- DECIDE <u>TO FOLLOW JESUS' PLAN AFTER</u> MY FAILURE.

"Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died." – **Mark 16:7 (NLT)**

<u>Memory Verse</u>: *"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."*
– Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)

QUESTIONS FOR APPLYING GOD'S WORD

(S.P.E.A.K. T.O. M.E. QUESTIONS)

Is there …

Sin to Confess?

Promise to Claim?

Example to Follow?

Attitude to Change?

Knowledge to Embrace?

Thanks to Give?

Occasion to Pray?

Mandate to Obey?

Error to Avoid?



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