



## FOR THIS REASON... II PETER 1:1-15

If today was your last day, and tomorrow was too late, could you say goodbye to yesterday? How would it hit you, if you got that kind of news? What would you do? Skydiving? Rocky mountain climbing? 2.7 seconds on a bull named Fumanchu? Would you love deeper? Speak sweeter? Or give the forgiveness that you've been denying?

If Jesus revealed to you that shortly you must put off your earthly tent, that you have finished your race and it is time to come home. What would you do? Who would you tell? What would you tell them? What would you leave behind?

Now for the reading of God's Holy Word.

**1** Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have **OBTAINED** like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

**2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord, **3** as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**5** But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence, add** to your **FAITH VIRTUE**, to virtue **KNOWLEDGE**, **6** to knowledge **SELF-CONTROL**, to self-control **PERSEVERANCE**, to perseverance **GODLINESS**, **7** to godliness **BROTHERLY KINDNESS**, and to brotherly kindness **LOVE**. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. **9** For he who lacks these things is

shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

**10** Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent** to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; **11** for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**12 For this reason** I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. **13** Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, **14** knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. **15** Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

So where are we going? The goal, the Telos, of this teaching is to understand why we are going to study II Peter (the over-arching goal, as is the goal of KEM and Impact Discipleship: is for you to “THINK BIBLE” so that in every test and trial, we would have programmed ourselves to follow this discipleship pathway by default), first, in order to understand why it should be studied, we should understand why it was written, and in order to understand why it was written we should understand who was writing, to whom he was writing, what was written, and when it was written.

**Who?**

Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ.

**What?**

A letter, to those WHO have obtained LIKE (of the same value) precious faith, with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

**When?**

Shortly before “I must put off my tent.”

**Why?**

**“For this reason:...”**

# WHO?

- ❖ Peter - A bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ.
  - A bondservant in Greek was a “Doulos” which was a voluntary slave, someone made a slave by his own choosing and committed for life.

## **Romans 6:3-7**

**3** Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** When we were baptized into his death, we were placed into the tomb with him. As Christ was brought back from death to life by the glorious power of the Father, so we, too, should live a new kind of life. **5** If we've become united with him in a death like his, certainly we will also be united with him when we come back to life as he did. **6** We know that the person we used to be was crucified with him to put an end to sin in our bodies. Because of this we are no longer slaves to sin. **7** The person who has died has been freed from sin.

- ❖ A bondservant then is such a beautiful picture of redemption, for once we were in captivity, as slaves to sin, but were bought with a price and freed from sin. Now free we must choose who we will serve, for no one can serve two masters. Peter identifies himself by letting us know Who he has chosen to serve.
- ❖ **An Apostle** – The second identifier Peter gives for himself is an Apostle. The literal definition is “one who is sent out.” When an apostle is sent, he now takes on the responsibility as ambassador of the Kingdom. Sent out with the Authority, Agenda, and Activity of He who sent him. See [Apostolic Footprints](#)  
Joshua 22:5-6 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul. So Joshua blessed them and sent them away...

## **What? (and to whom?)**

**A Reminder of mission, gameplan, a BIG WARNING and promises to those who have obtained like precious FAITH**

Here is where things get crazy, and the connected dots start to look like an evidence board. Everything is connected. (After all, the entire bible is all saying the same thing.)

Let's take it verse by verse:

2. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. (Our first promise)

3. His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. (Our second promise.)

4. by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (Promises #3 and #4)

**Now here comes the mission and gameplan.....**

5-7. For this very reason, GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, add to your faith!

❖ **Faith**, a gift we receive and a muscle we develop

- Faith is first, the foundation, without faith, there is nothing to add to
- Faith is ABOVE ALL – Ephesians 6
- Faith is essential to pleasing YHWH – Hebrews 11
- Faith is obedience – Hebrews 3:16-19

Now....**Giving all diligence!** Add to your faith... the faith we receive is free, but now it is our turn. To add! And adding will require diligence, and diligence requires much effort. First, we add virtue.

❖ **Virtue** - What is right in God's eyes. "**What to do.**"

- The world would give the definition of "high moral standards" or "moral excellence." The problem with this definition is the world is

ever changing, and so follows it's moral standard. What one generation forbids, the next tolerates, and the third celebrates.

- When we root our virtue in YHWH and His Word, we hold up an everlasting measuring stick which we can always reference back to when faced with new choices.
- Peter tells us to add to our faith, virtue. Once betrothed, add virtue. Who can find a virtuous wife? Proverbs 31

❖ **Knowledge** - Having now obtained faith, and understood virtue, we can next add knowledge. Knowledge is the prerequisite to wisdom. Now that we know what to do, next we must ask “**How do we do that?**”

- It is important to remember when adding this step, if we start here, all of the knowledge in the world is meaningless without faith and virtue. Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God, and without virtue, God's will for us, we may be climbing the wrong ladder.

❖ **Self-control** – You now know what to do, and how to do it, the next step, “**DO IT.**” This pathway is so beautiful because it can be applied to each individual test and trial we experience, as well as to our lives as a whole. Currently I am in the self-control phase of my calling. Virtue-God told me I am called to be a pastor. Knowledge-He has given me His word, and teachers in my life to help me understand how. Now it is time to do. To teach. To disciple.

❖ **Perseverance** – “**Keep doing it.**”

- In James 1 we read that we are to count it all joy when we face various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces perseverance. After reading II Peter one, you might be asking, how does James jump from faith to perseverance, while Peter says we must first add virtue, knowledge, and self-control before arriving at perseverance? The answer is found within the question. In order for us to overcome the trials we face, to pass the tests, we must apply these three steps. Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control...what would/did God do when faced with this trial? How do I do that? Do it! When followed correctly, the natural result of the process, is perseverance. And, the

more we persevere, the easier it becomes to persevere. Example: some translations read: “produces patience.” There is a great difference between asking my two year old to wait 5 minutes, vs asking my wife to wait 5 minutes.

- ❖ **Godliness** – Now follow this pattern in every aspect of your life. “**Wholistic Integrity**” The word integrity is an architectural term meaning that the reality of the structure matches the design and engineering perfectly. Are you doing exactly what you were designed to do?
- ❖ **Brotherly Kindness** – Love your neighbor as your self.
- ❖ **Love** - Greater love has no man than this, that he would lay down his life for a friend.

8. For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Promise #5)

9. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. (**The BIG WARNING**) Short sightedness means we can only see what is right in front of our face. It is a very selfish perspective. Man sees the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7 Fix your eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12

- ❖ This warning, is our enemy’s greatest tactic. To make you forget that you are already cleansed. Thankfully, we are given a clear gameplan on how to combat this lie.

10. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; (Mission #2 and Promise #6)

11. for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Promise #7)

## To Summarize:

### Mission

1. Give all your diligence
2. Be even more diligent

### Gameplan

1. Faith - Virtue - Knowledge - Self-control - Perseverance - Godliness - Brotherly Kindness - Love

### Warning

1. **DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE BEEN CLEANSED FROM YOUR SINS.....** (if you forgot how to not forget, please see Mission and Gameplan above)

### Promises

1. Grace and Peace are multiplied
2. We are given all things needed for life and godliness
3. Partakers of the Divine Nature
4. Escape the corruption in the world through lust
5. Become neither barren not unfruitful
6. You will never stumble
7. Abundant entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of Jesus

### When?

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Peter is writing this knowing that he is close to finishing the race, as Jesus revealed to him. This understanding, also leads us to our final question:

## **WHY?**

### **For this reason...**

Peter's reason for writing, for reminding, is promise #7. For an entrance to be supplied to YOU abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thus fulfilling the charge he was given, right before Jesus put off his tent and ascended. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."

Baptize them – Faith. Salvation.

Teach them - virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love. Christ-likeness.