

THRIVE

The Triumphant Testimony of a Thriving Disciple

Pastor Jonathan Pafford | January 18, 2026

Where we are going in 2026...

Glance at the Apostle Peter

Background -

Life because of Jesus

Called to follow Christ (Matthew 4:18-25)

Equipped to live like Christ

- Walked on water with Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33)
- Witnessed Jesus' glory (Matthew 17:1-13)
- Confronted with hard lessons (Matthew 16:13-23; John 13:1-11)
- Broken when he denied Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75)
- Saw the resurrected Christ (John 20)
- Restored by Jesus (John 21)

Sent to live for Christ

- Lived a faithfully fruitful life as a disciple of Jesus Christ (Acts 1-15; 1 & 2 Peter)

THREE OBSERVATIONS FROM A THRIVING DISCIPLE'S LAST WORDS

2 Peter 3:1-18

1. Thriving disciples require authentic community (vv 1, 8, 14, 17)

“Dear Friends” –

What area is the Holy Spirit pressing you to grow in authenticity as a disciple of Jesus? Who are your “dear friends” that will help you thrive in Christ this year?

2. Thriving disciples equip one another to live like Christ (vv 1-2, 3-7, 16-17)

Stir up sincere understanding by way of reminder of God’s Word (vv1-2)

Matthew 28:19-20

Beware of those who scoff at God’s promises (vv 3-7)

Don’t follow the untaught and unstable who twist Scripture (vv 16-17)

3. Thriving disciples grow while waiting for the Lord’s return (vv 8-14, 18)

“Grow in” –

Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ