

L 3 ... Staying on Track Spiritually

2 Peter 1:12-21

There have always been false teachers trying to lead believers astray, causing doubt as to whether we are following the truth of God. Peter knows his days on earth are few. Therefore, he writes this epistle so authentic Christians will stay on track spiritually, which has at least **three** requirements ...

Review the basics (1:12-15)

We all tend to forget, so we need constant reminding. What does Peter write in [1:12a](#)?

The phrase *these things* refers to the basics of the Christian faith. Included is what he has just written about not allowing their salvation to become a license for immoral living ([1:3-11](#)). Effective teachers know the value of repetition. Research has shown that within twenty-four hours we forget 90% of what we hear. However, research has also proven that taking notes improves our retention by as much as three times. That's why I always hand out sermon outlines and lessons with blanks to be filled in.

Peter realizes the believers to whom he is writing know the basics of the faith and are *established in the present truth* ([1:12b](#)). However, there is no guarantee they will stay that way without reviewing the basics. Sometimes we may tire of hearing the same Bible truths, but we all need regular reminders.

Knowing this, what does Paul write in [Philippians 3:1c](#)?

Peter informs his readers: *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 shewed me* ([1:13-14](#)). Peter knows he will soon die a violent death, as the Lord Jesus told him some forty years earlier.

After Peter's denial of the Lord and the Resurrection, Jesus gives Peter an opportunity to confess Him three times since he has denied Him three times ([Jn 21:15-17](#)). Then, Jesus tells Peter, who was probably around twenty years old at the time, that as a young man he would dress himself and go where he wanted ([Jn 21:18a](#)).

However, in [John 21:18b](#), what does Jesus tell him will happen when he is old?

The next verse records that Jesus tells him this to reveal the kind of death by which Peter would *glorify God* ([Jn 21:19](#)). This is a solemn prediction of Peter's crucifixion—the Roman soldiers will come, Peter will *stretch forth* his hands to be tied, and they will lead him where he doesn't want to go. Peter never forgot this prophecy of Jesus.

Knowing he will soon leave this world, Peter wants to leave behind something that will last forever, God's Word. Peter left behind *1 Peter* and *2 Peter*, and most Bible scholars believe Mark got the information for his gospel from Peter.

How does Peter refer to Mark in [1 Peter 5:13d](#)?

So, it is likely Peter disciplined John Mark. Peter is now at least in his fifties and knows he will soon be martyred. Therefore, he writes, *Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance* ([1:15](#)). Through his two epistles and Mark's gospel, Peter provides a means for us to always be able to remember *these things*.

To stay on track spiritually, **review the basics** and ...

Remember the source (1:16-18)

By the time Peter wrote this epistle, there were many false teachers who claimed to have special knowledge about Christ. So, Peter writes that he and his associates, including John Mark, did not follow *cunningly devised fables* when they told them about *the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* ([1:16a](#)).

Then, what does Peter write in the last phrase of [verse 16](#)?

Peter is sharing things about Christ he saw with his own eyes. He, James, and John were *eyewitnesses* to the transfiguration of Christ. Mark, who probably got his information from Peter, writes that Jesus' clothes became dazzling—extremely white, much whiter than any earthly bleach could make them ([Mk 9:3](#)).

Matthew also records that *his face did shine as the sun* ([Mt 17:2](#)). Then, two Old Testament saints, Moses and Elijah, came from heaven to talk with Jesus. Only Luke tells us what they talked about. It was Jesus' *decease*, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem ([Lk 9:31b](#)).

Peter writes what only an eyewitness could: *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory* (1:17a–b).

What did that voice say ([1:17c](#))?

This was the second time God gave His verbal approval of His Son. The first was at Jesus' baptism ([Mk 1:11](#)).

Peter was profoundly impressed by what he saw and heard at the transfiguration and writes, *And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount* ([2 Pet. 1:18](#)).

The source of what we believe as Christians comes from eyewitnesses who died for their faith. We know no one would die for something they know to be a lie.

Requirements for staying on track spiritually are **review the basics, remember the source**, and ...

Rely on Scripture (1:19-21)

After writing about his unforgettable experience of hearing the verbal Word of God at the transfiguration, Peter refers to another form of God's Word, the written Word of Scripture. He writes, *We have also a more sure word of prophecy* ([1:19a](#)). This probably means what Peter saw and heard at the transfiguration verified and corroborated what the prophets had written. Included are such things as the Messiah would be born of a virgin and die a sacrificial death for our sins ([Isa. 7:14](#); [53:5-6](#)).

The Word of God is something *whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn* ([1:19b](#)). We live in a world that is getting better in some ways. We have made huge advances in medicine, transportation, and communication. When I began in the ministry back in 1985, no one that I knew had ever heard of personal computers, the internet, email, text messaging, MP3 players, cordless phones, and, certainly not, cell phones. All these are commonplace today. In spite of these advances, our world is still *a dark place* spiritually. The only place to find true spiritual light is God's Word. It is *a light that shineth in a dark place*.

How does [Psalm 119:105](#) express this fact?

The *light* of God's Word is needed until *the day star arise in your hearts* ([1:19c](#)). Jesus declares Himself as *the bright and morning star* ([Rev. 22:16c](#)). Until the day when Christ, the Ultimate Light, returns to dispel all darkness, we have the Word of God to give us light in a dark world.

It seems some false teachers were teaching that *prophecy* in the Old Testament was not of divine origin but was the prophets' interpretation of things. Therefore, Peter writes, *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* ([1:20-21a](#)). Next, Peter gives us one of the finest descriptions of the inspiration of Scripture in the Bible.

Write [2 Peter 1:21b](#) below:

The phrase translated *moved* refers to a sailing ship being carried along by the wind. So, prophets would speak or write, and the Holy Spirit would guide their thoughts and words. Therefore, we can have complete confidence every word in the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

To stay on track spiritually and be authentic, we must accept the inspiration of all Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments.

That's why Paul makes what declaration in [2 Timothy 3:16](#) about *all Scripture* that *is given by inspiration of God*?

God's inspired Word is *profitable* for every area of our lives. The word *reproof* means it convicts us of what is wrong in our lives. Then, it reveals what needs to be done for *correction*. The result is teaching us a life of *righteousness*, or the right way to live.

To stay on track spiritually,

REVIEW THE BASICS,

REMEMBER THE SOURCE,

RELY ON SCRIPTURE