

2 Peter 1

Why Some Christians Are Never Shaken

J.D. Farag

KAPONO: Heavenly Father, we look so forward to that day when we can be with You, Lord, and everything is perfect. Oh, man, what a day it will be. Thank You, Lord, for this time and this place, Lord. And even this season, where we can just, unashamed, not being ashamed at all, Lord, as mentioned in the first message, Lord, that we can just praise You, and I pray that we will do so as we are out and about, Lord.

Be with the message this morning, Lord. May it speak to our hearts, and may we just glorify You with all that's said and done today. And we ask this in the mighty name of Jesus, and we all say amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. Good morning. You can be seated. Welcome. So glad you're here. I want to welcome those of you that are joining us online as well. We're so glad that you are.

Before we get started, I wanted to mention that... Can you believe that Christmas is like this upcoming Sunday already? Does that stress you out? So please note that we are not having Sunday morning services on Christmas. However, we are having a Christmas Eve service Saturday night, 5:00 p.m. is the start time.

Also today will be the last time we're in *2 Peter* until Sunday, January 8th. We'll resume our study. This because I'm going to have Pastor Mac and Pastor Leitu filling in for me. So starting this Thursday. Pastor Mac – Yeah, I like it when you do that because that – they really like it when you do that.

[Applause]

It encourages them. Okay, so starting this Thursday, Pastor Mac will be teaching, and then I will be here Christmas Eve and then I'll be back on January 8th after that and we'll resume our, of course, Bible Prophecy Updates and the *2 Peter* teaching as well. So with that, let's get into the word.

2 Peter Chapter 1, verse-by-verse through this amazing epistle of Peter, his second epistle. We're going to pick it up where we left off last week in *verse 12*. We'll go to and through *verse 15*. So I'll ask you to stand if you're able. You can follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine.

The apostle Peter by the Holy Spirit is writing and says, *verse 12*, **“So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body because [Verse 14] I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.**

And [Verse 15] I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.”

Let's pray, if you would please join with me. Father in heaven, thank You so much. Lord, we're just so grateful to You for Your word and this time that we can have together here in

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Your word. It's that time that – it's our time where we can just set aside all the stress and the busyness, especially during this season, and just by the Holy Spirit, settle our hearts and quiet our ever-busy minds with all the things that are clamoring for attention.

Lord, we just need for the Holy Spirit to put all of that aside so we can give You and devote to You our undivided attention and our hearts so that You can speak into our hearts, Lord. That's why we're here.

We're thirsty, Lord, we're hungry, we're desperate for You. And we know that only You can satiate that desperation that we have. So Lord, will You? Will You speak now? Your servants are listening. Thank You. In Jesus' name, amen and amen.

You can be seated. Thank you. So what I want to talk with you about today is why it is that some Christians are never shaken. They're never moved despite what comes against them or who it is that's against them. Now, please hear me out on this because I don't want you to get the impression that we're talking about Christians who never get discouraged. That is absolutely not what we're talking about here. And we'll talk more about that in a moment.

What we're talking about here is some Christians just seem to have this unshakable, immovable faith. No matter what happens in their life, they are just steadfast, and nothing moves them. Nothing shakes them. I think of the apostle Paul in *Acts 20:24*. And you got to love this about Paul. He basically says just that. He says, **“Nothing moves me.”** And nothing did. But then he explains why.

Because this world to me is like rubbish. I consider all the things of this world of no consequence, inconsequential, no effect. So nothing moves me. Nothing shakes me. So we're talking about the faith that gets shaken.

Now, did Paul get discouraged? You better believe it. Was Paul ever afraid? Absolutely. *Acts Chapter 27*, in fact, he's so fearful on that ship about to be shipwrecked. And this is not Paul's first rodeo / shipwreck. In fact, if I'm not mistaken, it would be his fourth. But he thinks that this one will be the end. And he's got in his hip pocket a promise from God that he would stand before Caesar.

Well, what God didn't tell him is you're going to stop off on your itinerary to the island of Malta because I want them to get saved. And so they shipwreck there on the island of Malta, and they got saved. And he ends up getting to Rome. But here they are in this storm, and Luke, by the Holy Spirit records these words: **“When we [We] had finally [Finally] given up all hope of surviving.”**

Wait. Who's we? Luke and Paul. You mean Paul had given up hope? Yeah. Wait a minute! Paul had the promise from God that he's going to stand before Caesar. This is the apostle Paul we're talking about. And by the way, we're also told in that same narrative and account that Paul was so afraid that God had to send an angel to him and tell him, Paul, don't be afraid.

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Whenever you read in the scriptures, **“Do not be afraid,”** you know why that's there? I know this is deeply profound. They were afraid.

This is Paul we're talking about. I know. He was terrified. He was full of fear, riddled with fear. And the angel of the Lord just came to him and says, you're going to make it. If I'm Paul, I'm like, I don't think we're going to make it. This does not look good. I'm pretty sure this is how it ends. No, you're going to make it. You'll see. I know this is bad. It's a perilous storm. It is a very hard difficulty. But you're going to come through.

But his faith was never shaken. His faith was never shaken. Now, you know when Jesus said, **“The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy.”** The question needs to be asked, what is it that Satan wants to steal, kill, and destroy?

He wants to steal our joy, kill our hope, and destroy our faith. That's what he comes to do. So we call them, affectionately sometimes, a crisis of faith. Where you're riddled with doubt and you're starting to question the Lord.

And if that's you here today, you're in good company. You know who you're in good company with? John the Baptist. We were talking about this as a staff. It is just mind boggling to me. This is John the Baptist we're talking about.

When Elizabeth was pregnant with him and Mary was pregnant, John leapt in Elizabeth's womb when he was close in proximity to the Savior. Now, fast forward; you're some 30-plus years, maybe, presumably about 33 years later.

This is John that's in the wilderness, the forerunner, and eating locusts, surviving out there in the wilderness, preaching repentance. This is John the Baptist we're talking about. And now he's in prison, and he's starting to doubt. And so what does it do? He sends guys with a message to ask Jesus. **“Are you the Savior or is there another coming after You?”**

Oh, come on! This is John the Baptist we're talking about. Well, he's doubting. He's having a, if you will, crisis of faith. It's really interesting, because when Jesus sends word back, He doesn't really directly answer John's question.

He basically quotes out of Isaiah the prophet, saying, just tell John, are the lame being healed and sight given to the blind? Translated: Yes, I'm the Savior.

What was John's problem?

John's problem was he's sitting there in this prison waiting for Jesus to get him released, and He's not. In other words, Jesus is not doing what John thought He should be doing. Well, His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are too high for our understanding.

So, again, what I want to do today is I want to talk about those Christians, the ones – and you know who I'm talking about. These are the Christians that I mean, they're so rock solid and they stand strong, immovable. And keep in mind that the primary purpose of Peter's second letter was to not just encourage them. They were very discouraged.

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Again, whenever you read in the Scriptures, “**be encouraged,**” it’s because they’re very discouraged. So they’re very discouraged, suffering under crushing persecution. So he wants to encourage them, but so too does he want to warn them.

Why?

Because in the year between his first letter and his second letter, these false teachers had crept in and with their false doctrines. And he wants them to be steadfast and remain sound and strong and not be moved or shaken by these false teachers, so they’re so rock solid that they can’t be moved.

So he does so by zeroing in on the characteristics, of which we’ll see three, three attributes, if you prefer, so that we too can be numbered among those of whom it is said, man, they’re solid. They’re not moved at all. They’re unshaken, immovable.

First one, *verse 12*, they master the basics.

Did you, as we were reading the text, notice that there are no less than three times that Peter, by the Holy Spirit, uses the word “remember” “memory,” refresh your memory? Remember; don’t forget this. In fact, that’s why he pens this second letter. So he has a written record when he’s gone. They’ve got something to go back to.

What are they going to go back to?

The basics. He’s not telling them anything they don’t know. He’s just wanting them to remember what they already know. Doubtless you’ve heard the expression or said it yourself. ‘We need to get back to basics.’ That’s exactly what he’s saying.

You know, sometimes we just need to step back and go back to the foundational, fundamental basics of the faith. We need to be established in them. And I like how Peter says it. He says, I know you already know this. I’m not telling you anything you don’t know. All I am wanting you to do is just remember this and never forget it.

Because isn’t it true that as we go along in our lives that we kind of get away from just the basics, the simplicity of this walk of faith, this walk that we have with the Lord. The people that stand the strongest are the ones who have been so established. They’ve mastered the basics. They’re not dismissive of them. Can I say it like that?

Oh, that’s so elementary. That’s so fundamental.

Example: This is a tough one, but here goes. All right. How basic is this? The word of God and prayer?

I know that!

Okay. Just go back to the basics.

What are the basics?

The word of God and prayer.

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I know that!

Okay, let's try this again. The word of God and prayer. That's all.

Well, that's so basic.

I know. But apparently, you need to get back to the basics. Because truth be made known, you've got all of these other books. Hmm. Why don't you just go back to the word?

I share this on occasion. I haven't shared it for a while. So this would be like new material for those of you that are new. Many years ago, I just really sensed that I needed to be a man of prayer.

Don't look at me like, wow, you're such a man of prayer. Just don't talk to my wife about that.

So I set out – in fact, I prayed, and this is a very dangerous prayer, by the way. I really caution you. Don't say, 'Lord, make me a man of prayer.' Because the angels given charge concerning you are in heaven going, Oh, no, he didn't.

Oh, yes, he did. He prayed to be a man of prayer?

Oh, wow!

See if I'd have known what God was going to do to make me a man of prayer, I would have never prayed and asked Him to make me a man of prayer. Oh, He did. He answers that prayer. Make me a man of prayer? He's going to answer that prayer. So here I am. I'm like, okay, I'm going to get books on prayer.

E.M. Bounds: Oh, man, if you ever get his writings on prayer, this man was a man of prayer, a true man of prayer. So I got a hold of a book. I forget the title of it; he's got several. He's with the Lord now, of course. But it was like this thick. It was this voluminous work on prayer. I'm like, okay, I'm going to read the book on prayer.

And then it's like the Holy Spirit as only He can, in that's still, small voice is kind of like, um, why don't you just pray?

[Laughter]

No, think about it. The amount of time it would take you to read this book on prayer, do you realize how much time you can spend in prayer? And so I put it on my shelf. I never read it. I just started praying.

The reason I use this example is because we tend to dismiss the simplicity of prayer and for that matter, God's word as well. We've complicated it, haven't we? We've made prayer into something that it is absolutely not. You know what prayer is? It's talking with God. It's talking with God. That's all prayer is. And the word of God is God talking back to you. It's been said that prayer is not a monologue, but a dialog.

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I use the illustration of a phone. I can't use this one anymore because that's way old. So you have to use the cell phones. It's more like this, I guess now. Or no, I'm sorry, the AirPods, pardon me.

So prayer is the microphone, and the word of God is the earphone. So you pray and you – It's basic, right? It's just so basic. But we dismiss it.

We're looking for the new book. Wow! They just wrote a new – I'm going to go get it.

You got 66 of them right here. Is that too basic?

Oh, a conference! I need another –

The last – believe you me when I say this, the last thing we need right now is another conference. And I'll even take it a step further and say, you don't need a sermon. So let's just close in prayer right now. I don't need that. I need Him. And we put all these things in between us and the Lord. And thankfully, God has made it so basic, so simple. Just master the fundamentals.

I think in certain fields of expertise what makes certain people stand out, I'm talking about in the secular arena, what makes certain people stand out is not this exceptional talent. They've mastered the basics and they just keep doing them over and over and over and over again.

And if I'm not mistaken, we're in a race, right? There's a competitive dynamic to this whole thing we call our Christian faith. I'm not just entering this race. No, I'm in it to win it, as they say. I want to finish the race. I want to finish well. We're in a fight. It's the good fight of faith. And I want to stand out. I want to win.

And for those of you that are competitive, and you know who you are. I won't ask you to raise your hands. You know that competitiveness in us, in all of us? I mean, sometimes it's manifest in traffic. I'm not going to confess anymore. But, you know, somebody gets ahead of you, or they cut you off. I won't go there. I've already confessed my sins and one to another.

But what makes people stand out is that they just master the basics.

And what are the basics?

The word of God and prayer. If you master the basics of prayer and the word of God, nothing's going to move you. How can it? How can it? You're in constant conscious communion with God and you have the Word of God.

Psalm 119, it's a shield. It's a light unto your path, a lamp unto your feet. It's all of those things. It's the rock, it's the foundation, the word of God. If you're strong on the word of God, nothing's going to move you. You're immovable because you're solid. The solid Rock. So they master the basics.

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And then the second one, which is very, very interesting in *verses 13 and 14*, they have a light touch. Peter wants to take advantage of the short time that he has left because he knows that it's time, and he knows it's time because Jesus made it clear to him concerning his departure from, and he uses this word and I love this word, 'tent.'

That's what our bodies are; they're tents. Some of our bodies look like tents. Sorry, that was bad.

What is a tent?

Temporary. Our tents are temporary. You don't put up a – hey, we're building. I got the plans. We're going to build a permanent tent. That's an oxymoron, where I come from.

No, a tent, by its very nature, is temporary. And so Peter is actually referring to what Jesus told him in *John's gospel Chapter 21:18-19*, some 30 years prior, by the way. And now he knows all of these years later that his death is imminent, that God's going to take the tent down. And before that happens, he wants to have a written record for them.

Why?

Because he loves them. Which is why God inspired Peter, by the Holy Spirit, to pen this second epistle. They would have a written record to refer back to because you guys, I'm not going to be around much longer. And after I'm gone, I want you to have this. I want you to have this.

I think you would agree, and we've talked about this at length over the years in our verse-by-verse study through God's word. But there's this common denominator. And certainly this is true in terms of the attributes of those who are just immovable. They're immovable because their treasures are not laid up down here on earth or stored up down here on earth.

And so when something happens and there's a shakeup, you know, in the market, they're not shaken because it doesn't affect them. Yeah, but that was quite the financial earthquake. I know. My tent's fine. It doesn't affect me.

See, when you have a light touch on this world and the things of this world, you will proportionately also be unshaken by this world. It doesn't affect you.

And it's so interesting in *Matthew's Gospel Chapter 6*, Jesus, I mean, we affectionately refer to it as the Sermon on the Mount. I like to call it the Sermon on the Amount.

He talks about I mean, just head on, money. You can't serve both God and money. It's one or the other. Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust can destroy and the government can seize, I'm sorry, the thief. They're going to do that, by the way. I just thought I'd mention that parenthetically. No extra charge. Pun intended.

That's coming very soon. We've talked about that in the Prophecy Updates. You think the people that don't have their treasures here on earth are worried?

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Don't you find it interesting that Jesus would then go on to talk about the cure for worry? Why do you worry about these things? If you're treasure's in heaven, you got a light touch on this world, the things of this world, you've got no worries, man.

Hey, crash the economy. My investment portfolio up there, wooh! You got to see that thing. You can't touch it, by the way. Nice try. Government can't get to it. It's safely in heaven awaiting me, by the way, and earning a lot of interest for all eternity, by the way. So what am I worried about?

Well, apparently, you're worried about what you're going to eat, what you're going to drink, what you're going to wear. Those who do not have a Father like you, they run about to and fro worrying about those things, not you.

If your heavenly Father is going to take care of that flower in the field, that, by the way, is so beautiful. Even Solomon, in all of his splendor and wealth was never clothed like one of those flowers. And the thing about that flower is it's here today, gone tomorrow. How much more valuable are you? The flower was created by God, but it wasn't created in the image of God. You were so if God is going to take care of that flower, is He not going to take care of you?

And then He's pointing to the birds. This is before PowerPoint, you know.

[Laughter]

Anyway, this is on the mount of Beatitudes. For those of you that have been to Israel with us, it is just breathtaking. There's the Sea of Galilee, and depending on the time of year, the birds and the flowers, and I could just picture Jesus pointing to the birds. You see that bird up there?

Yeah.

Do you see that thing stuffing worms into barns, hedging against the future? No. You see that bird worried about next month's rent?

No. Why?

Because God feeds the birds of the air. God created the birds. But He didn't create the birds in His image. He created you in His image.

What's the point?

Well, obviously the point is, if God's going to take care of that bird in the air and that flower in the field, how much more is He going to take care of you? So why are you so worried? Why are you so filled with fear? **“Seek ye first” Matthew 6:33 [We know this verse very well] the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be taken care of and added unto you.”** That's verse 33.

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Verse 34, a little bit more difficult. I wish He stopped at verse 33, because at verse 34, He says, **“Sufficient unto the day are the worries therein.”** Translated: Tomorrow's worries will be waiting for you when you get there.

See now, as a worrier, a recovering worrier – God’s done a great work of my life. I don't want to know about – because see some of you, and you know who you are.

I won't point. I got to be careful when I point. You know who you are. You think, wait, tomorrow's worries are going to be waiting for me? So you start worrying about tomorrow's worries.

I like how one said it. It is so good. Tomorrow – No, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. Let me say that again.

Today is the tomorrow that you worried about yesterday. You're fine.

You know, they've done studies on the percentage of things that we worry about actually coming to pass. It was something like, I mean, it's way up there. I'm not going to be accurate. I'll just say it's about 90%. 90% of all of the things that we worry about never happen. That makes you angry because then you're thinking, man, I worried for what? I tossed and turned at night, didn't sleep for what?

Now some of you are looking at me like, okay, wait a minute. Did you say 90%?

Yes, probably over 90%.

What about the other...

[Laughter]

Because see, you'll worry if it's 1%. You're going to worry about 1%.

Well, watch this. They've also found, and this is in a Christian context, the whatever the percentage is, say 10%, it actually comes to pass. No! But God in His grace got you through it. Any worry is unneeded.

I've heard it said that one minute spent worrying is one minute wasted. You don't have to worry.

Now, there's a prerequisite to this. The prerequisite is you can't have your roots dug down too deep in the temporal soil of this world. Because if they are, then everything is going to mess you up. Everything's going to shake you. You're going to worry about everything. You're going to worry about it.

Why?

Because it's down here. It's vulnerable. This is the apostle Paul to the Philippians, Chapter 4. It's again, it's so basic. You want to worry about no thing?

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Here's how. Pray about everything and thank God for anything and you'll worry about no thing. **"The God of peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ."** The God of peace will give you the peace of God. That's not a play on words. That peace of God that surpasses human understanding, it's just going to keep you grounded and rooted and unmovable and unshakable.

Why?

Because you're solid. You're not shaken. You're not tethered to this world and as such, vulnerable to everything that happens.

The apostle John would say, **"Do not love the world or the things in the world."** Hey, we're in the world, but we're not of the world.

And isn't it true that the Christians who struggle the most have kind of a tighter grip on this world, and they needlessly and unnecessarily are moved and shaken?

But when your treasure is up there, nothing down here is going to phase you. It's not going to phase you.

Now, again, let's keep this in its proper context. We're not talking about discouragement again. We're talking about our faith.

What's faith?

"The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen." See, one day we're not going to need faith anymore because we will see Him face-to-face.

The antithesis of faith is sight. But see, that's our problem because we say, 'Seeing is believing.'

What Jesus said is believing is seeing. Believe and then you will see. That's called faith. You don't see it, but by faith you believe it. And when you live by faith, and the righteous shall live by faith.

Well, my flesh chafes against that. I don't want to live by faith. I want to see it. I want to live by sight. I want to walk by sight.

You know there's a word for that. It's called pride. Because you want to be in control. See, when you're not in control, that means you've got to trust. Go figure.

Man, I'm going to have to trust the Lord.

Wow! That's horrible! What happened?

Well, you mean you got to put your faith in the Lord?

Yeah.

You know, I had this investment portfolio, I had this, you know, and now it's all, you know, falling apart and crashing.

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Well, no wonder you're shaken up. No wonder you're shaken up. The more you have, the more you have to worry about. The less you have, the less you have to worry about. Transfer your treasures. You can't take it with you, but you can sure send it ahead. Send it ahead!

It's a very safe place to put it and transfer it, especially right now, which again, I won't go too far into it. I mean, but we've talked about it. It's true, though, you know, there will be a digital currency, a centralized bank, digital currency, cashless.

And coming packaged with it is going to be a bio-digital identification and it's going to be predicated upon your carbon credit score, climate change, your social credit score, and you won't be able to, not you, because you better not be here. This is in the tribulation.

But in the tribulation, no one will be able to buy or sell unless they have this mark in order to do it. So it is coming. I think the best financial advice in the history of mankind is *Matthew 6*. Transfer it, get it out, and send it ahead. That's the safest investment and the best.

Now, don't get me wrong; it's not what you have, it's what has you. It's not what you have. I mean, you can have – if God's blessed you, praise the Lord, man. Enjoy. God's prospered you. God's blessed you. Be a good steward of that which He's entrusted to you.

But don't let what you have, have you. You can have the possessions, but don't let the possessions possess you. Have a light touch on them because it's just temporary. It's just a tent. Our lives are just, James says, a vapor.

I mean, think about that. That's even worse. I was okay with a tent to be up for a while. But a vapor is like, where did it go? It's gone. One last thing in the Proverbs. One of my favorite proverbs, of course, with all the other favorite proverbs. But it basically goes something like this. Don't feast your eyes on wealth. Don't hold on too tightly to your wealth.

You want to know why? I'm glad you asked. Here's why: Because wealth certainly sprouts wings and flies away to the heaven. Does that sound like your paycheck every month? It's kind of like, whoa, where are you going? Bye bye.

In other words, don't put your trust in wealth. No, it's flighty. It's going to grow wings and fly away and it's going to be gone. Don't hold on to it too tightly. It's okay to have it; don't let it have a grip on you. Don't let it have a hold on you. Because if it has a hold on you, you're going to be I mean, everything is going to move you and shake you. You're going to be tossed about to and fro like the waves at the sea.

No, you want to be solid, rock solid. So when, not if, something happens and it's earth shaking, as we say, you're over here going, ha! It's a pretty nice tent. You know, the tent might wobble a little bit, but nothing is crumbling or sinking or crashing or nothing. Oh, bring it.

It's like, we say it like this and then we'll move on. Some of you are saying, please move on. I'm almost done.

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We have sayings like this: 'I don't have a horse in this race.' 'I don't have a dog in this hunt.' You know what that's saying? I don't have an investment in this world, so I'm not waking up every morning early. That's presupposing I was able to actually sleep that night. I'm not waking up when the markets open up to see. I can tell you what my life's going to be based on what my financial portfolio is. It's down; I'm down. It's up; I'm up.

That's no way to live. That's no way to live. That's yo-yo Christianity. You're up and down, back and forth. Nah. Steady Eddie, man. Steady Eddie. That's the one, right? You can do steady Freddy. Okay, steady Betty. All right, you got the point.

Verse 15, our third one. The characteristics, the attributes of those Christians who are just immovable and unshakable is they're living for eternity. So they've already loosened their grip. In fact, they have no investment in this world or the things of this world. And the reason they don't is because they're living in light of eternity. Now, this is actually very logical.

Stay with me on this. We've talked about this, too. We use the number of 80. I got in trouble trying to keep it at 70 years.

Boy, you should have seen my emails. Actually, maybe you shouldn't have seen them. So I raised it to 80. So we live 80 years here in this world, right? And they're just hard years. Well, okay, 80 years.

But how many years is eternity? That was rhetorical, by the way. Let's compare, like the apostle Paul would say, "**The sufferings of this life are not worthy** [*They're not even on the same universe*] **to be compared with the glory that awaits.**"

So it's a matter of perspective, the eternal perspective. This is beautiful. It's magnificent. I mean, Peter, by the Holy Spirit is summing up the purpose of this second letter, and he's encouraging them to diligently make every effort.

Did you catch that? In other words, the onus is on them. It's a written reminder because you're not going to have me very much longer. And it wouldn't be very much longer before Peter would be absent from the tent, his body, and present with the Lord. So he has this letter written to them as a reminder for them.

So what's the takeaway?

Well, the takeaway is, Hey, I'm just passing through, guys. This is not my home. This is not my final destination. Eternity is. And he uses the word 'departure,' which I very much appreciate, and I thank the Holy Spirit for the inspiration of that particular word because that's what it really is for the Christian. You're relocating.

Let me try that again. You didn't die. We live forever. Do you know that your eternal life started when you got saved and were born-again? Your eternal life started. I love when Paul taunts death. It's kind of like he's having this fictitious dialog with death. "**Oh death, [Come on, man] where's your sting?**" There's no more sting.

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Now, that's not to say that we don't grieve. Paul writing to the Thessalonians says we do grieve, but we just don't grieve as those without hope. Because see, our hope is not in this life. Our hope is in eternal life.

And so when you live your life and view your world and your circumstances through the lens of eternity and as such are living for eternity, what is going to move you? This is just temporary.

This world is – If this world were my home, well, I wouldn't be up here right now. I'd be running around, hair on fire, trying to figure out how to keep everything together.

I'm like, yeah, let it go. Let it go. I don't have, again, any horse in this race. My investment is in eternity. I'm living for eternity.

It affects everything you do, all the decisions you make, your relationships, everything in every arena of life, if viewed through the lens of eternity, will change your life.

And that's what Peter is saying here. You know, guys, I'm not going to be here. I'm leaving now. I'm going to depart. It's a relocation. I'm moving to a new address, very great, beautiful area, and it's all free, too, which makes it even better. There's no property taxes up there.

I just got my property tax statement. I almost threw up. I couldn't believe it. I'm like, what? Oh, I get it. They just want more – Anyway, that's enough of my problems.

So, no property taxes. No taxes. That alone. That alone.

But doesn't it – I love that hymn of old, classic, timeless hymn. When your eyes are on Jesus, everything just pales. The world grows, and I like this word, 'strangely' dim in the light of His glory and grace. When you view this life through the lens of eternity, it just gives you that eternal perspective, it puts it into perspective. You know, that's why you're not freaking out.

You know, I keep saying 'those Christians,' you know, what are the characteristics of 'those Christians?' Well, some of you might be one of 'those Christians.'

I would like to talk with you afterwards, because I want to be one of 'those Christians' that nothing ever phases them. And this is the main reason right here.

Yeah, I'm putting it into perspective. Because in light of eternity, which is forever and ever and ever, this is nothing. Why would I get upset about this or moved because of this or shaken up in light of this? No!

In eternity, do you think you're going to be remembering that? You know, we jokingly say, and then I'll close with this. We jokingly say, man, when I get to heaven, I'm going to ask God some questions.

By the way, I think we talked about this on Thursday night. I just want to – kind of spoiler alert here. I just want to let you know it's not going to be Peter at the pearly gates. And I

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should probably also mention that you're not going to be given a harp. I don't know where we got that. That's not what's going to happen, okay?

So if you're expecting to see Peter at the pearly gates and your... And we're also not going to be given wings. Come on, you've heard that, right? Oh, they're angels now.

No, they're not. The angels are under us. We're going to be judging angels. Angels were created by God, but again, not in the image of God. We were created in the image of God.

So it's like when we're in; I don't know why, but people have this picture of heaven. It's horrible. It's horrible. You know, it's like it's boring. Like you're just going to be playing a harp and Peter's going to be there at the pearly gates.

No! Oh, man, first of all, in the rapture, the dead in Christ are going to rise first. That's all of your loved ones. They're going to get their new glorified bodies. And then we who are alive and remain are going to be caught up metamorphosis in the original, in the twinkling of an eye. We're going to be given our new bodies. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

And we're going to meet them in the air and forever be with the Lord. Well, is Peter going to be there? Yes, we'll see Peter. Are they going to have harps? Probably. I'm not playing it. I'm going to be too busy just worshipping the Lord.

Here's the bottom line. The Christians who stand strong in this life do so because they're the ones who see this world through the lens of eternity. And it changes everything. Puts everything into perspective. It's kind of like, okay. Now, if this were my final destination, we've got a problem. But it's not. So no problem.

Kapono, come on up. Why don't you stand up? We'll close in pray. Father, thank You so much. God, we need the reminder. I'm reminded of the Last Supper, the Passover celebration, the last time You would eat with the disciples. And You gave us that to do.

Why?

In remembrance of You.

Why?

Because we forget. We forgot. We need to be reminded. And so Lord, thank You for the reminder. Thank You for Peter reminding us what really matters so that we don't allow things that don't matter to have such an impact on our lives. Lord, thank You that this is attainable. Thank You that this is doable by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, we have no hope of ever possessing these characteristics or attributes, absent the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling us and enabling us and empowering us to do so. And the worst thing we could do, Lord, is to try to muster this up in the energy of our own flesh. We will fail. We always do. But You'll never fail us. We put our hope in You, we'll never be disappointed.

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So Lord, thank You. Thank You for the Holy Spirit that makes this attainable. Because I don't think there's a one of us here that doesn't want to have these attributes in our lives, especially in these last days, as it gets more and more difficult. Thank You, Jesus. We love You so much. In Jesus' name. Amen.