

2 Peter 1:12-21

¹² Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter Outline

- I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
- II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)**
- III. Beware of Deceptive False Teachers (2:1-22)
- IV. Hope in the Promised Future (3:1-16)

Section Outline

- I. Remember the Greatness of Salvation (1:1-11)
 - A. The Great Source of our Salvation (Justification) (1:3-4)
 - 1. Divine Power
 - 2. All Sufficient Supply
 - 3. Intimate Knowledge of His Majesty
 - 4. Magnificent Promises
 - 5. Companionship with God
 - B. The Great Journey of our Salvation (Sanctification) (1:5-8)
 - 1. Our Attitude for the Journey
 - 2. Seven Attributes for Holiness
 - 3. Settled Assurance
 - C. The Great Destination of our Salvation (Glorification) (1:9-11)
 - 1. Know for Certain your Destination (vs 9)
 - 2. Be Persistent in your Confirmation (vs 10)
 - 3. The Riches of our Glorification (vs 11)
- II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)
 - A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15)
 - 1. His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)
 - 2. His Rallying Cry (vs 13)
 - 3. His Sober Realization (vs 14)
 - 4. His Steadfast Pursuit (vs 15)

- A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15) - His legacy, His swan song, His final sermon
1. **His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)** - His legacy, His swan song, His final sermon
 2. His Rallying Cry (vs 13)
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12 Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.

"Always" - now and for everyone who follows

- Peter understood that this letter would be distributed, read, and become part of God's Word

"Qualities" - everything regarding the characteristics of our Great Salvation that he just explained

"Remind" - Gr. ὑπομνήσκωμαι (hypomimnēskomai) - Don't forget, recall, recollect, call to mind

- Over 200 times in the Old Testament
- That's why God instituted the Feast of Passover to remember the great works that God did in bringing His people out of Egypt.
- Ten Commandments are given in Exodus 20 and then again in Deuteronomy 5

2 Peter 3:1

3 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

Philippians 3:1 (*To Remember is a Safeguard to your Life*)

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

Peter's intention is not a rebuke but confirmation that his readers are fully settled in their knowledge and understanding of the Truth

"Know" - Gr. οἶδα (*oida*) - possess information, have knowledge of how to do an activity, comprehend the meaning

- Not the Greek word *gnosis* that we've already seen in 2 Peter

"Established" - Gr. στηρίζω (*stērizō*) - strengthen, make more firm, decide firmly, unchanging in attitude or belief

The verb rendered **established** (*stērizō*), meaning "to firmly establish," or "to strengthen," is a perfect passive participle indicating a settled condition.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 50). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Luke 22:31-32 (*Peter was strengthened by the Lord and has strengthened us*)

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen (*stērizō*) your brothers."

"Truth" - Gr. ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*) - that which is in accord with what really happens, corresponding to reality

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Twelve Ready Reminders from Scripture

#1 Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (*Hebrew Shema - Remember the Lord and His Word*)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

#2 Deuteronomy 6:12 (*Remember the Lord's Deliverance*)

¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

#3 Deuteronomy 8:2 (*Remember the Lord's Leading*)

² And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

#4 Deuteronomy 9:7 (*Remember your Rebellious Heart*)

⁷ Remember and do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.

#5 1 Chronicles 16:12 (*Remember the Lord's Wondrous Works*)

¹² Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered,
(Also Psalm 78:7, Psalm 106:7, 13)

#6 Psalm 78:42 (*Remember God's Power*)

⁴² They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,

#7 Psalm 103:2 (*Remember the Lord's Benefits to You*)

² Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

#8 Exodus 13:3 (*Remember God's Direct Work in your life*)

³ Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

#9 Jude 17 (*Remember Prophecy*)

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#10 Titus 3:1 (*Remember to Submit*)

³ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,

#11 Matthew 5:18 (*Remember that all of Scripture will be Fulfilled*)

¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

#12 John 14:26 (*The Holy Spirit Empowers us to Remember*)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

- A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15)
1. His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)
 2. **His Rallying Cry (vs 13)**
 3. His Sober Realization (vs 14)
 4. His Steadfast Pursuit (vs 15)

¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder,

“Right” - Gr. δίκαιος (*dikaios*) - just, upright, in accordance with God's compelling standards, fully justified

“Body” (ESV), “Earthly dwelling” (NAS), “Tent” (NKJ), “Tabernacle” - Gr. σκήνωμα (*skēnōma*) - dwelling, formally a tent, lodging place

- Not normal word for “body” - Gr. σῶμα (*sōma*) - used 142 times in NT
- Used five times in the NT (2 here, Acts 7:46 referring to building the temple, 2 Cor 5:1-4)
- Peter knew our bodies are TEMPORARY living places - GREAT perspective

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

5 For we know that if the **tent** that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this **tent** we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, **3** if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. **4** For while we are still in this **tent**, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49, 51-53

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. **43** It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

“Stir Up” (ESV), “Wake up” (HCB) - Gr. διεγείρομαι (*diegeiromai*) - wake up, stimulate thinking

2 Peter 3:1

3 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am **stirring up** your sincere mind by way of reminder,

Luke 8:24 (*Windstorm on the lake*)

24 And they went and **woke** (*diegeiromai*) him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he **awoke** (*diegeiromai*) and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

John 6:18 (*Jesus walking on water*)

18 The sea **became rough** (*diegeiromai*) because a strong wind was blowing.

Why do we easily become spiritually lethargic (apathetic, dull, indifferent, hardened)?

John 14:9 (*Jesus gently rebuking the disciples for not understanding*)

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Matthew 26:40-41 (*Jesus praying in Gethsemane*)

⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Hebrews 6:11-12

¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15)

1. His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)
2. His Rallying Cry (vs 13)
3. **His Sober Realization (vs 14)**
4. His Steadfast Pursuit (vs 15)

¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.

Peter was probably in his seventies at this point

"Putting off" - Gr. ἀπόθεσις (apothesis) - putting away, laying aside, removal of filth by washing, to die

- Only used here and 1 Peter 3:21

1 Peter 3:21

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a **removal of dirt** (apothesis) from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Not a picture of removing the royal robes, but casting off dirty, soiled garments

Job 9:25-26

- ²⁵ "My days are swifter than a runner;
they flee away; they see no good.
²⁶ They go by like skiffs of reed,
like an eagle swooping on the prey.

Psalms 39:5

- ⁵ Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
Surely **all mankind stands as a mere breath!** *Selah*

“As our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me”

- Not sure of the exact time this happened
- Was it during Jesus’ ministry or some extra revelation near the end of Peter’s life some 40 years later
- Being in prison under Nero reign made this a stark reality

John 21:18-19 (after Jesus questioned Peter three times)

¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, **you will stretch out your hands** (be crucified), and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**Peter lived his whole life knowing he would be crucified.
What a sober realization that motivated Peter to shepherd the flock**

- A. Peter’s Passion (vs 12-15)
5. His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)
 6. His Rallying Cry (vs 13)
 7. His Sober Realization (vs 14)
 - 8. His Steadfast Pursuit (vs 15)**

¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

“Will make every effort” - Gr. σπουδάζω (*spoudazō*) - do quickly, do one’s best, make every effort, be eager

- Same word as “**make every effort** to supplement your faith” in verse 5
- Same word as “**diligent** to confirm your calling and election” in verse 10
- That’s why Simeon was called Peter, he’s a Rock
- Just as he is pushing us to persevere in the faith, Peter was living it out himself and setting an example for us of faithfulness to the very end

“Departure” - Gr. ἔξοδος (*exodos*) - exodus, death

- Only three places in the NT
- Not death but a passing from one life to another

Luke 9:31 (*Transfiguration*)

³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his **departure**, (*exodos*) which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Hebrews 11:22

²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the **exodus** of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Peter didn’t want his readers to remember him but the truth of God’s Word and His promises

- Peter is not in retirement
- Not resting in his Mediterranean villa on Sicily
- He fought & toiled to the very end for his Master (Lord) and Savior (Christ).

2 Peter 1:12-15

Luke 22:31-34 (*In the Upper Room after instituting the Lord's Supper, Jesus told Peter to strengthen his brothers after his restoration*)

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,
³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, **strengthen** your brothers." ³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

II. Trust the Certainty of Scripture (1:12-21)

A. Peter's Passion (vs 12-15)

1. His Heartfelt Exhortation (vs 12)
2. His Rallying Cry (vs 13)
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Additional Resources:

2 Peter 1:12

Contrary to the beliefs of some, there is no such thing as brand-new spiritual truth, only a clearer understanding of the timeless truths (Isa. 40:8; 1 Peter 1:23–25; cf. Matt. 5:18) in God’s Word. People do not always know the truths of Scripture, nor do they always hear true and accurate interpretations of it. Therefore, some in that condition may think certain truth is new—and it is to them. But there is no new revelation from God (cf. Jude 3). All who preach and teach the Scriptures are reminding people of what God has said in His Word so constantly that His repetition and theirs makes truth stick.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 49). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Peter was almost apologetic in the second half of 1:12; he did not want his readers to misunderstand his intention. He was not being critical nor did he suggest they were wavering. Instead, he said they did **know** the truths he wrote about **and** he was aware that they were **firmly established in the truth**. He wanted them to stay that way.

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 867). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

In one sense the believers do not need any reminder because they already “know” and “are firmly established in the truth.” The idea is quite similar to Jude 3, where the faith is described as transmitted once for all to the saints. The readers should not be swayed by the false teachers because they already know the truth, and they are strengthened by it even now. The reference to “strengthening” reminds the readers of the power of the gospel. The truth they know cannot be limited to mental comprehension, for the truth grasps and strengthens them; it grants them the power to live in a way that is pleasing to God. The truth “has come” (*parousē*) to them and belongs to them (cf. Col 1:5–6). The innovations suggested by the false teachers are superfluous and dangerous. The church has been taught and fortified by the gospel.

Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, pp. 308–309). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

1 John 2:27

²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Colossians 1:3-6

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth,

2 Peter 1:12-15

1 Peter 1:23-25 (*Remember that our Lives are Short and Temporary*)

²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,
and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

Luther: —“The Christian ministry is of two kinds, as says St. Paul in Rom. 12:7. 8. Teaching is laying the foundation of faith, and preaching it to those who are ignorant of it. Exhorting, or, as St. Peter says, reminding, is preaching to those who know and have heard (the Gospel), admonishing and stirring them up to recollect what they know, to continue and increase therein.”

2 Peter 1:13

The godly shepherd stimulates his flock primarily **by way of reminder**. He consistently and tirelessly keeps teaching and reviewing all the major themes, doctrines, and commands of Scripture. No matter how much divine truth believers have heard or how spiritually mature they are, they still need reminders to apply that truth (cf. Rom. 12:1–13:10; 1 Cor. 3:5–23; Gal. 5:1–6; Eph. 4:11–16). Wanting them to remember, the true shepherd constantly feeds his flock spiritual food in all its scriptural dress. Realizing that familiarity can breed contempt, he employs all the passages on all the themes, so there is freshness instead of familiarity.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (p. 51). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

Mark 13:35-36

³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Romans 13:11

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

Proverbs 13:4

⁴ The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

2 Peter 1:14

¹ Such was the condition of the Jews. Meanwhile the holy apostles and disciples of our Saviour were dispersed throughout the world. Parthia,² according to tradition, was allotted to Thomas as his field of labor, Scythia to Andrew,⁴ and Asia to John,⁶ who, after he had lived some time there, died at Ephesus.

² Peter appears to have preached in Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Asia⁹ to the Jews of the dispersion. And at last, having come to Rome, he was crucified head-downwards; for he had requested that he might suffer in this way.

Eusebius of Caesaria. (1890). [The Church History of Eusebius](#). In P. Schaff & H. Wace (Eds.), A. C. McGiffert (Trans.), *Eusebius: Church History, Life of Constantine the Great, and Oration in Praise of Constantine* (Vol. 1, p. 132). New York: Christian Literature Company.

2 Peter 1:15

That Peter truly understood the urgency, kindness, faithfulness, and brevity of ministry is clear from this epistle, especially as summarized in the legacy statement of this passage. The leader of the Twelve wanted believers to avoid the hazards of spiritual negligence; therefore, he labored diligently through his preaching and writing to reiterate the important issues. He desired to leave a final will and testament to remind saints of the greatness of salvation, the blessedness of assurance, and to make certain that false doctrine did not rob them of their rich spiritual heritage.

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2005). [2 Peter and Jude](#) (pp. 52–53). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

How could Peter guarantee that after his death his readers would **always be able to remember these things**? Some suggest this is a subtle reference to Peter's aid in preparing the Gospel of Mark, but this is only speculation. More obviously he was laboring to complete this second epistle which, when joined with the first, would provide ongoing written testimony of the truths so close to his heart. Still another possibility is that he referred to his own life and ministry extending into the lives of others, as Silas and Mark, who would carry on his work after he died. One thing is clear—Peter wanted to be sure that the Lord's people would not forget God's work and God's Word.

Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 868). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.