

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 8/13/2023

### 2 Peter 1 The Life and Letters of Peter

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

**Opening discussion: Peter got to see some really cool things (like the Transfiguration). Talk about some really cool things you've seen in your life.**

#### Highlights

- **Mark 9:5-7** The Transfiguration. Not only did Peter see, but he heard God's voice.
  - Peter didn't know what to say but like Peter is, he had to say something!
  - God said to listen to Jesus, and Peter did!
- **2 Peter** - letter written to the same churches, he is still in Rome, he knows he's going to die soon.
  - This is the last letter before he dies, so we need to look at it from the perspective of "what does he want to say to them?"
- **2 Peter 1:1-2** Peter is saying, I have something for you that will help you grow spiritually – to those who have said "yes" to Jesus. This letter is for us today too.
- **2 Peter 1:3-4** There are two natures: divine – God's nature, corrupt – the world; leads to death
  - "Participate" – God is inviting you to a partnership
    - Koinonia – community. **What does it look like to participate in divine nature?**
  - God's promises
    - He promises to create community between him and us
    - We don't ask God "do you promise?" He just promises because He wants that partnership with us.
    - He doesn't owe us anything, he just wants us.
    - **What are some of God's promises? Hint: Look throughout Scripture**
- **2 Peter 1:5-7**
  - Faith (our salvation) is our foundation; our roots
  - Growing our faith comes out of our fruit.
    - We typically have it backward. We often say, "I have to be good enough and the fruit of that is that my faith will grow."
    - Goodness – moral excellence
    - Knowledge – general intelligence, facts, understanding
    - Self-Control – even though I want it I don't have to have it
    - Perseverance – God has you on a path and you don't waver from it
    - Godliness – You want to look and act like Jesus
    - Mutual Affection (Philadelphia) – brotherly love. I love you and you love me.
    - Love (Agape) – I love you deeply and expect nothing in return.
  - You can do all these things and not follow Jesus. When they are built on the foundation of your salvation, and stream out of that, it's different.
  - **2 Peter 1:8-9** When we had these things in increasing measure, it changes our life.
    - Ineffective – barren, unproductive – unfruitful
    - Nearsighted – you can't see where God is taking you; Blind – what's in front of you, you cannot see.
  - Forgetting – sometimes we get so used to doing the "Christian things" we forget who we were before Jesus saves us.
    - Don't forget your salvation – you are a new creation, changed by Jesus
    - You **MUST** grow.

- **2 Peter 1:10** never stumble
  - We need to grow in increasing measure in all of them; when we do, sin will be rooted out of our lives.
  - **Take a look at the list. What are the things that because you're not growing in increasing measure tend to lead you toward sin.**
  - Growing in increasing measure roots out sin.
- **2 Peter 1:12-14** I'm not going to be here much longer and I want to make sure you remember what I've told you. I will continue to make tell you to make sure you remember. **If you knew you were going to die soon, what would you want to make sure everyone knew?**
- **2 Peter 1:16-17** – I didn't make all this up. I was there! **What have you seen Jesus do that you can say, I was there! Hint: How is he changing your life? (You were certainly there for your own story!)**
- **2 Peter 1:19** – Still don't believe me? Let's turn to the OT and see what the prophets say.
- **2 Peter 1:21** Man didn't write that – God did, through the Holy Spirit.

### 3 Takeaways

- God owes humanity nothing
- God desires community & partnership
  - He lives out His promises
- As we commit to community & partnership we grow.

### Two questions

- **Where were you before Jesus?**
- **Why are you here now?**

### Jesus is who He says He is

**Do you want to grow in increasing measure; He desires to partner with you, Do you desire the same?**

**Do not forget we must grow. We have to remember our salvation, but we cannot stop there.**