



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **"Keep Growing When It's Easier to Drift"**

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

### **Devotion and Discussin Questions**

**Key Texts:** 2 Pet. 3:14-18; 2 Pet 1:5-10; Phil 3:12-14; Rom 6:1-4; Gal 5:13-14

Peter's last words are pastoral, urgent, and deeply affectionate. Over and over, he calls his readers "*loved ones*"—because this is not cold theology, it's a shepherd's heart. He knows wolves have crept in, twisting truth and leading the unstable astray. But rather than despair, Peter points believers back to what matters: holiness, vigilance, and growth in Yeshua. He closes with a doxology, reminding us that all glory belongs to Messiah now and forever. These verses, 2 Pet 3:14-18, are his final instructions—a spiritual anchor for us today.

#### **1. LOVED ONES, BE DILIGENT IN HOLINESS (2 Peter 3:14)**

Peter says, "*Therefore, loved ones, while you are looking for these things, make every effort to be found in shalom—spotless and blameless before Him.*" The call is clear: we don't drift into holiness; we *make every effort*. This isn't about earning salvation—it's about walking faithfully in what Yeshua has already accomplished. He has made us clean, like a spotless lamb without defect, but we must choose daily to walk in that cleanness.

Holiness means wholeness. To be "found in shalom" is to have integrity—what's inside matching what's outside. Peter contrasts this with the false teachers of chapter 2, who were "spots and blemishes," stained by sin and indulgence. We are to be the opposite—unstained, blameless, at peace with God. This takes urgency, zeal, and dependence on the Spirit. Every day we decide whether to live for the flesh or live in His likeness.

#### **2. LOVED ONES, SEE HIS PATIENCE AS SALVATION (2 Peter 3:15-16)**

Peter reminds us: "*Bear in mind that the patience of our Lord means salvation.*" Many wondered why God delayed judgment, but Peter explains: it's not slowness, it's mercy. Every extra day is space for repentance. His patience is not weakness; it's salvation for those who have yet to believe.

Peter even points to Paul's writings, affirming unity with him. Though Paul's letters can be "hard to understand," they carry God's wisdom. The tragedy is that the ignorant twist them—just as they twist the rest of Scripture—leading themselves to destruction. But for us, the right response is different: instead of

twisting, we trust. Instead of complaining about delay, we rejoice that His patience means someone else's salvation. That perspective reshapes how we live and pray.

### **3. LOVED ONES, KEEP GUARDING AND GROWING (2 Peter 3:17–18)**

Peter closes with one final charge: *“Since you already know all this, loved ones, be on your guard so that you are not led astray by the error of the lawless and lose your sure footing. Instead, keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Yeshua the Messiah.”*

This is the balance: guard against deception while pressing forward in growth. The danger is real—false teaching spreads like cancer, appealing to the flesh. But the antidote is growth. Grace strengthens us to walk in purity. Knowledge deepens our relationship with Messiah, moving us from immaturity to stability. As Paul said, “I press on to take hold of Him” (Philippians 3:12–14). Growth is not optional—it's protection. It keeps us firm, stable, unshaken, and fruitful until Messiah returns.

### **CONCLUSION**

Peter's last words are not casual—they are a spiritual lifeline. Be diligent in holiness. See God's patience as salvation. Keep guarding and growing in Yeshua. These are the marks of loved ones ready for His return. And then Peter ends with worship: *“To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity! Amen.”* The question is—will we live now in light of that eternal glory?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does it practically mean to “make every effort” to be spotless and blameless?
2. How does seeing God's patience as salvation change your perspective on His timing?
3. Why do you think false teaching is so appealing, and how can we recognize it?
4. What does it mean to “be on guard” without living in fear?
5. What are some specific ways you can keep growing in both grace and knowledge this week?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba Father, Abba, thank You for calling us loved ones. Thank You for the cleansing blood of Yeshua that makes us spotless. Teach us to make every effort to live in shalom and holiness. Help us to rejoice in Your patience, knowing it means salvation for many. Guard our hearts from deception and help us keep growing in grace and knowledge of Yeshua, our Messiah. To Him be the glory, both now and forever. Amen.

In Yeshua's name, amen.