



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **“Follow the Lead of Your Leader”**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** 2 Peter 1:1-2; Matt 23:23-28; Phil. 3:10-14; John 13:12-17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3

2 Peter is a short letter that packs a punch. While 1 Peter focused on how to endure suffering from the outside world, 2 Peter sounds the alarm on something more subtle—but far more dangerous: deception from within. Peter is nearing the end of his life, writing with urgency. His tone is not soft. He's not just teaching theology—he's protecting sheep from wolves.

And yet, before he confronts false teachers, Peter takes a radically humble approach. This seasoned apostle—the same Peter who walked on water, who saw Yeshua transfigured, who preached at Shavuot—opens his letter not by exalting his authority but by affirming ours. He reminds us that every believer—whether new or seasoned—shares equally in the precious faith made available through Yeshua. This is how truth and love begin: by remembering who we are, and more importantly, who He is.

#### **1. START WHERE PETER STARTS—AS A SERVANT, NOT A CELEBRITY**

Peter doesn't introduce himself by flexing his credentials. He doesn't say, “I'm the rock on which Messiah will build His assembly,” or “I'm the one who walked on water.” Instead, he opens with “*Simon Peter, a slave and emissary of Messiah Yeshua*” (2 Peter 1:1). That word *doulos*—slave or bondservant—speaks of total surrender. It's the opposite of platform-building. While false teachers thrive on ego and exclusivity, Peter reminds us that true spiritual leadership begins with servanthood.

In today's spiritual climate, where influence often means celebrity, Peter reminds us to follow the way of Yeshua—the One who washed feet, not spotlighted Himself. Servanthood is not just a posture; it's a path. It's how we guard against pride. It's how we reflect the One who laid down His life. As we minister to others, we must check our hearts: Are we pointing people to the Savior, or are we subtly pointing them to ourselves?

#### **2. EQUAL FAITH MEANS EQUAL VALUE—DON'T CREATE A SPIRITUAL CLASS SYSTEM**

Peter says he's writing “*to those who received a faith equal to ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior, Messiah Yeshua*” (v. 1). That phrase “*equal to ours*” uses the Greek word *isotimēn*—meaning equally precious, equally honorable. He's saying, “Your faith isn't second class. You're not riding on my coattails. You've received the same treasure I have.” Right out of the gate, Peter's words destroy any notion of spiritual elitism.

Whether you're a Jewish believer with generations of Torah study behind you, or a Gentile just learning the basics of the Bible—your faith is of equal value in Messiah. That's powerful. False teachers love to dangle “secret” knowledge, to make people feel

like they need a guru or some deeper mystery. But Peter cuts through that noise: “*You already have what you need.*” You don’t need a spiritual VIP pass. You just need Yeshua.

### **3. REAL GROWTH COMES FROM KNOWING HIM, NOT JUST KNOWING ABOUT HIM**

Peter’s prayer in verse 2 is beautiful: “*May grace and shalom be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and Yeshua our Lord.*” This isn’t just about head knowledge—it’s *epignōsis*, deep, relational knowing. It’s the kind of knowing that shapes your character and bears real fruit. The Lord isn’t impressed by how many Bible verses or Greek words we memorize. The Holy Spirit is urging us to press into relationship, to be transformed by knowing the One we follow.

Knowledge without intimacy leads to pride. But intimacy with Yeshua leads to grace and peace. False teachers may dazzle with insights, but Peter’s goal is different: that we would become like the One we know. That we’d walk in His humility, serve with His compassion, and stand in His truth. The more we know Him, the more we’ll reflect Him. And that’s the kind of knowledge that changes everything.

### **CONCLUSION**

Peter could’ve tried to pull rank. He could’ve reminded everyone of his spiritual résumé. But instead, he calls himself a servant. He lifts others up. He urges us to know Yeshua—not just facts about Him, but to truly *know* Him. In a world where spiritual performance and platform can overshadow humble obedience, Peter calls us back to the basics: servanthood, equality, and intimacy with our Messiah. Lead like your Leader.

Maybe you’ve been looking up to spiritual leaders in a way that made you feel small—or maybe you’ve been tempted to chase after the approval of others. But Peter reminds us: *You already have a faith of equal value.* You already belong. God isn’t calling you to impress—He’s calling you to draw near. Today, repent of pride. Lay down comparison. And receive the grace and peace He freely gives.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think Peter begins this letter by emphasizing his identity as a servant?
2. How have you seen spiritual elitism show up in modern faith communities?
3. What does it mean to you that your faith is “equally precious” as Peter’s?
4. In what ways can knowing *about* God differ from truly *knowing* Him?
5. How can we recognize and guard against false teaching within the body?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, thank You for the gift of equal faith—the kind that doesn’t depend on status, background, or knowledge, but solely on Your righteousness. We humble ourselves today. Forgive us for any pride, insecurity, or comparison that has clouded our view. Help us to know You more—to truly know You, not just in our minds, but in our hearts. Multiply Your grace and peace in us. Make us servants who reflect Your humility and truth.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.