

2 PETER

EVERY EFFORT

2 Peter: Every Effort To Know Your Bible

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2 Peter 1:12-1:21

We'll come to the Doxa Church podcast. 2nd Peter is a letter of passionate pleading from the apostle Peter to multiple churches, reminding them that God's power and grace transforms believers to live righteously, even in the face of an increasingly hostile and opposing culture. God sustains us until Jesus returns to restore all things. And until then we make every effort to follow Christ. Join us in this six week series. As we walk through the book of second Peter, for more information about Doxa or to join us for a Sunday gathering, go to doxa-church.com.

Okay. If you've got a Bible open up to that text, we just read where Hannah just read it. 2nd Peter chapter one verses 12 through 21. This is our third week in this series, Every Effort. And so as we're getting ready for this message, I'm going to pray for us as you turn there and we can dive right in.

Well, Lord Jesus, I it's a great morning, Lord God. And as the clouds kind of come over, Lord, we're reminded that you're reigning in heaven. We're so thankful that you're here, that you're participating in our ministry. The presence of the holy spirit is amongst us and Lord God. I just felt driving in this morning that you have a word for somebody this morning, Lord, that that ultimately there is something in this message that somebody desperately needs to hear. And so Lord God, as we come broken, we come lost become distracted. Lord, would you sort of peel that back for us this morning? Would you remove the clouds from my mind? So I could clearly articulate what you have Lord, and for those of us are sitting in the crowd, Lord, would we be just be clear-minded and ready? Our hearts and minds open for your word and that we might make every effort to pursue you pursue the scriptures in Jesus name. Amen.

So if you've been following in the news or you've just been alive the last few weeks, you've noticed that over the last several weeks in the south and on the east coast, there have been a series of hurricanes going through it, right? You remember, you remember obviously hurricane Katrina and what happened in 2005, but there's obviously been another hurricane that has run through new Orleans and kind of peeled back peeled east and gone up the east coast. And it's created a lot of damage. It's caused a lot of death, a lot of hardships, a lot of difficult things that took place, those hurricanes. And of course us here on the west, we, we, we're not super familiar with hurricanes. We have other things though.

Can you think of anything that kind of hits the west coast all of the time? And then we have natural disasters sometime around August-ish fires. Yes. 'Cause we've been breathing in smoke for the last several months. So we're kind of reminded of the fires on the east coast in the south. They have these hurricanes and we get these fires. Well, a lot of them hit this summer, but even previous last summer a ton hit, right? It was, it was crazy. I mean, from everywhere from Denver, Colorado to Los Angeles was kind of smoked out in the west coast, Boise, Arizona, you name it right. Obviously here in the Pacific Northwest. And we were breathing in this sort of smoke in these reminders. Well, my sister lives in Medford, Oregon. And if you remember last year around August, there was a massive fire there. Massive, biggest fire in certainly in Medford history. But she lived there. I remember she texted me and said, Hey, there's a fire here. It's nearby. It's been here a few days. It's getting pretty close. I'm getting nervous. And what do you say to someone that says that? I don't know what to say.

I did have a friend that lost his home in the Santa Cruz fires just two years ago. And so I just say, well, keep me posted. I'll pray for you. And so a couple hours later, she texts me again. She's like, I think we might have to evacuate like, oh, this is getting a little nervous. And I was like, well, why don't you get out of there? That's my first step is run. I'm not the type to wait these things out. Right? Like let's get out of here. So she texted me back 10 minutes later. I was like, well, the I-5 is shut down because the fire jumped the freeway. I was, like is was another way out. Yeah. There's another freeway. I'll look into that. And then she starts driving like, oh, that one is now just been closed. So both major freeways out of Medford are closed. The fire, encircling the town and there's only one road out. Well to get, to get out, everyone has to go through the town and Medford's not a big town, but in a small road, it's going to be a lot of traffic. So that road is backed out. And so what they instruct the residents of Medford to do is to go to the center of the city. That is not comforting.

Let me just be straight with you. Hey, there's fire. Circling us, go to the center, wait by the Fred Meyer. And hopefully things will sort themselves out. Right? Very scary, very challenging. And so she, she calls me and she says, Hey, I have to evacuate. And I'm like, well, what are you, what are you going to do? What are you going to grab? Because of a fire could potentially burn your house. What are you going to get? And she says, oh, I'm going to get my dogs. And I'm going to get my birth certificate and my social security card and I'm going to get my family and get out of there. And she had to make quick decisions really fast about what's important. You see when crisis hits, when change hits, what's most important has to come to focus, right? When crisis and change pushes in on us from all sides. And we're told to go to the center of the city, so to speak, we've got to make big decisions about what's most important for our lives.

And the last 18 to 24 months has sort of served as an auto-focus for what's most important, or at least it should have, right? We've, we've experienced the sort of mortality of humanity with coronavirus. We're all experiencing that. Now we have injustice in the communities. There's all these things happening, politics, all of these sort of the fever pitch nature. We've been talking about this over the last few weeks of anxiety and the culture it's so much. And now as we're in this season with it's really important, we have to figure out what's most important to us now, by the way, society isn't usually open to like wide-scale change in the narratives of how we do our lives, right?

I mean, that's just not how it works. Maybe some of us read a few blogs and we decide we're going to change our lives. But as a whole, that never happens. But because our routines have been upset because our narratives have been upset, we as a society have become a closely acquainted to the volatility of nature and even death itself and that has sort of brought us close to the finite nature of our own heartbeats. And as that's come into to view, we're open to new narratives. So this is an opportunity is what I'm trying to say. And I think that's here, Peter's thesis in this text. And hopefully my point of this message that crisis and significant change is an opportunity to reevaluate. What is most important and what is most important is what's most true.

You see, when we're dealing with all sorts of stuff, we've got our phones out. We're trying to figure out where we're going to live. We've got things happening at work. We've got, we're trying to decide what we're going to order to eat for dinner. We've got all of these sort of mini sort of issues that we're dealing with, but when we're in crisis, what's most important should come to light. And what's most important has to be what's true. You see opinion and conjecture has its place, but what's most important has to come into focus.

Peter makes the case that what's most important is what's most true. And then Peter gives evidence that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is the truest reality that's out there. So here's my plea this morning. If you are open to a new narrative because of the cultural upheaval that we have been in, please pay attention to what Peter says in this text. And if you feel like what you've been doing, hasn't worked and you're kind of at the end of your rope, perfect.

Consider that the Bible is a timeless truth and it can provide a foundation for that would be unmoved even in, and amongst death itself. And maybe you feel like where you're at right now is okay. Maybe you're like, huh? I feel good. I like where I'm at. That's fine too. But I would ask you to consider why the evidence for why the truths of Jesus are to be believed in the first place, why we even believe in Jesus and why they can even provide a more solid foundation than you find yourself standing on even right now. Okay. So Peter is going to give us a few things in this message. He's going to give us the situation he's in the situation. He's going to give us the reality that we're in. And then he's going to give us the evidence for believing the Bible as what's most important when crisis hits the situation, the reality, the evidence, the situation, the reality, the evidence, okay.

First Peter starts this section off with words that are gonna help bring into focus was actually most important. And that's in verse 12. Let's take a look. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities though, you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it

right, as long as I'm in this body to stir you up by, by way of reminder. Now, if you go to seminary, which you don't have to, but if you do, you're going to get a professor that says this catchy little thing. When you see a therefore ask what it's there for. Okay. When you see a therefore ask what it's there for, because you see the word, therefore, a lot in the Bible, it's always alluding to something that you want to bring into focus. You see in this passage, Peter is referring to what we talked about the last two weeks, mainly that we've got to strive to know God at a deep level, remember Peter's getting ready to die.

And so what he wants us to remember is that we've got to strive to know God at a deep level. And we've got to remember the wonderful, amazing promises that he's given us and then to live in light of those promises, therefore, okay. Therefore, I intend to always remind you of those qualities though I think you know them and are established in the truth that you have then I think it right, as long as I'm in this body to stir you up by way of reminder. So what is he doing? He's reminding us things that we already know, right? He's reminding us of things we already know, but he's not just reminding us. He wants to stir us up. Other translations will say, he's trying to wake you up.

I don't know if you've ever had a really cold shower, if your water heater's ever gone out. But when I played football and we had an early practice, the best thing to do is to get in a freezing cold shower. Honestly, it works so well. Awake, right? You're you're, you're awake. You're stirred up. And if you've ever been on a long road trip, sometimes it's really hard for me to stay awake on these long road trips. I may have driven from California to Washington, Washington, to Utah, Utah, to Cal. I've done all these trips, long trips, nothing wakes me up like the lights of a police car or fire truck. I mean, you hurt driving. And I'm like, oh my gosh, this is my third red bull. I'm passing out at the wheel. And all of a sudden I'm like, here we go. Fully awake, fully alert. I don't know if they did some research on those two colors or what, but they wake you up. Peter is trying to do that. He's trying to stir you up in the things that you already know. So Doxa, what is he talking about you, for those of you here that are believers, you are partakers in God's very nature. What that means is that the holy spirit, the same power that rose Jesus is in you to be able to sanctify you and grow you and move you forward in your life. He's trying to remit right mind. You need to strive to know God at a deep level because knowing God brings you peace and that you should seek to live a godly way of life because you may be ineffective. If you don't. That's what we've talked about the last few weeks. Okay.

Now, verse 14, since I know that I am putting off my body soon or putting the putting off of my body will be soon. That's what Peter says as our Lord, Jesus Christ has made it clear to me. So apparently, evidently God has told Peter that he will be putting off his body soon. Maybe he's alluding to a part in John where Jesus tells him he's going to die. Maybe that's what he's alluding to. So what's the situation then? The situation for Peter is that he is going to die. I keep saying that, but it's hard to really grasp that. He's about to die. Like his heartbeat is going to stop. He's going to be off the earth. God told him he will be dead. And what's interesting about this, this wording, cause it's really weird, right? He said, he's the way he says, he's going to die and he's going to be putting off his body. It seems bizarre, right? Except for that in some translations. And what we know about the original word in the language, the word body actually translates to the word tent, tent.

What he's trying to do is highlight that sort of temporary nature of our bodies of his body, right? He's trying to allude to that fact because when you set up a tent, usually it's temporary. Now just give you some historical context for Peter here right now. He's he's in the midst of some, some dire trouble because history records that there was a great fire in Rome, uh, right around this time at A.D. 64 through A.D. 67, sometime in that time period, and this fire was huge and it destroyed large parts of the city, large parts of the city so much. So that emperor Nero got really upset. Now, of course, Christians, those who worship Jesus were not very well-liked in Rome at this time. And so what did Nero do as what did he do? He blamed the fire on Christians, easy. It was easy to find the marginalized people group that were sort of wacky and believe this new sort of God and let's blame them.

And so what did he do? He blamed them as, as a way of persecuting them further. And Peter finds himself in prison in Rome, right around this time. That's the history. So there's no doubt that Peter in his mind knows there's massive fires going on. They're executing Christians on mass and I am sort of the I'm the big dog, right? This is Peter, the apostle Peter outside of Jesus, maybe Paul Peter's, the guy, everybody looked to him for the authority. And so he knew for sure that he was going to die. So his tent was going to be put off, which leads us to the reality for us. The reality is life is temporary for all of us.

I don't know about you, but I'm not such an outdoorsy person. I grew up in a large city. I don't do outdoors. Okay. I can deal with all sorts of stuff in the city context, but when it comes to being outside, I struggle. And when I put a tent up, nothing reminds me of the temporary nature of a tent faster than when I am the one putting the tent up because it lasts about 45 minutes. It is horrible. Life is temporary. Life is temporary. And maybe because of the season, we're in, you're starting to realize how temporary it is. Maybe you feel that on you. And you know, let's be honest. That's kind of hard to swallow, right? It's really easy to say. It's easy to think. But the point is that eventually we're going to pass away your kids, their kids. That's hard.

I was at the barber shop a couple of weeks ago and I found a new barber. He's awesome. And he's just singing all the time, making me feel guilty for being in a bad mood, that sort of guy. And he's at every old lady that walks by because you know, old lady it's in the mall and old ladies like to walk malls, the old folks love to put their shoes on and kind of get some exercise indoors. Maybe that's a Washington thing, right? It's always raining. And he, every person that goes by, he says hi to him. He's talks. He talks to him, gives him a high five. They come in, they chat the whole thing. An old lady, one lady walks by she's about 90 years old. And he's like, Hey, do you want a lollipop? Like a lollipop right? She's like, I would love a lollipop. And she walks in there, you know, kind of with her cane. And she gets a lollipop. I used to eat these a long time ago. Oh. It gives the whole spiel and he's loving it. And she walks out. I'm like, man, I wish I could just offer people lollipops. Like, I feel like I would be creepy if I did that. You know what I mean? But Hey, you want a lollipop? Like that's dangerous. Like I'm too giant for people to take a lollipop from me.

And then, and then I look up at my barber and I say, man, you're so happy all the time. You love it. And he's like, you got to enjoy what you do, man. You've got to enjoy it after all. I mean, we're all just passing through. We're all just passing through. And that was his reasoning and he's a believer and he lives down in maple valley and he goes to a good church down there. And I got

to hear a little bit of his story and share a little bit of mine about Doxa. And I said, it's so powerful that you could understand the very real reality that you're going to die. And then look at it like we're just passing through because he's made peace with the idea that we're just passing through. He understands the temporary nature of the world we live in.

For a long time we've been avoiding that temporary nature. We've been distracting ourselves with sort of mini micro visions for our lives and our companies and our schools and everything. And those things are all really important to be sure. But when it comes to life and death, nothing is more important than the fact that you are eventually going to die and you're going to pass. It's really important. You know, as I, as I heard his story, I feel like, well, up in me that I'm at this stage where I'm sort of wrestling with my finite nature as well. You know, I have four children and I'm a want to pass the torch. Well, I want to give, I want to give to them what I've sort of been given by the people that have built into me in, and I'm in the process also of changing my family tree.

See my full name is Eddie, James Williams the third, which sounds like a, like an old Reverend pastor in a Black neighborhood riser. My wife always teases me for that. Like, I should have my face on the side of a building or something, but some people laughed like, yeah, I know some black folks. Yeah, It sounds like, and it is like that. I mean, I'm serious, Reverend Paslode everything like just nail it. And so, but the point is I'm the third and my, my grandfather, I never met who was the first and he didn't treat my father very well. And then he passed and then my dad, he left our family at a young age. And so I'm sort of connected to this lineage that I don't have any real actual relationship to or connection to. So I'm trying to reboot the sort of legacy that I'm living in.

And I'm in the process of changing my family tree. And I think about how I raised my children and how it's going to impact the next few generations of Williams' families. It's so hard, what will my legacy be, you know, when my kids say that Eddie was such a, my dad was such a Savage Twitter down artist, I mean, any politician he would re he would just get after them and boom canceled. Like that's what his legacy was or will they say, man, he was so good at Madden 22. You know, he was so good at playing football and from video games or that Eddie was so good at the expert, Instagram filter chooser. And he would choose the perfect filter. I mean, the saturation was on point like, look at these old posts, right? Like, well that's well that's what will that be what they say?

You know, I hope that I'm remembered for someone who goes after God's heart. That's what I'm hoping. I hope I'm remembered for, for taking chances. When I feel like God asked me to take chances for moving to new cities for doing those things. So living for living for something much bigger than myself, I want to be known for that. Nothing is more interesting to me than the discipleship of my children and the love for their mother. And I want that to be the legacy. I hope you have the same goal. As I do.

Look at verse 15, Peter says this and I will make every effort so that after my departure, you may be able to recall these things. Peter makes every effort to, for us to learn that if you repent of your sin and take Jesus as your substitute, you have a divine nature. You have goodness in your heart, you are godly, you have a godly way of life to follow in a mission. Man, thank God that

Peter made every effort. Thank God that he made every effort who knows if this would be here. If he had it, he knows. If we all would be believers. If we had, if he hadn't made every effort, I want your children, your church, your family to say, Thank God, he or she made every effort. Thank God, they made every effort because I would not be a Christian. If they didn't, I wouldn't know Jesus. I wouldn't have clothes on my back. If they didn't make every effort, I wouldn't have been comforted in my moment of crisis if they hadn't made every effort. So Doxa, what do you need to lay down? So you can begin to make every effort for Jesus and to bring change into people's lives with the gospel?

By the way, don't go, go at this alone. That's why the church is so important. That's why something like a community, a gathering like this is so valuable because oftentimes we try to do the solo artists thing, where we watch this epic quest, a movie where someone goes solo and they Batman sort of character who goes and saves the world. But honestly, we've got to do this together and I'm so excited for this next season, at this church. I'm so happy to be a part of your church. I'm so happy to be here because I know what the leaders have been talking about. I know the season they're trying to lead Doxa into. If you heard, pastor Tim talk, you know, the new building spaces, coming new partnerships with churches, new vision, new mission. This is an exciting time to be at this church. If you're, if you're on the fence about where you're going to be, this is the church you should be at because I'm so confident based on what I've seen, how exciting God the sort of hand God has on Doxa and what he's about to do.

You want to be here. This is really exciting. So don't go out this alone. Okay? So we know the situation. We know the reality. Now Peter wants to give us the evidence. So now that we understand where we're at, life is temporary. He wants to give us evidence. And when you're thinking about evidence, there's a lot, there's a lot. You can say there's conjecture there's opinion, but nothing is more true to you than your own experience. You know what I'm saying? When you go see something and feel something it's just hits you different because all of a sudden you have tangible feelings and smells and hearing and sight. You can embrace it and experience it as in totality. And so Peter wants to reinforce his call to action for us to worship Jesus with his personal experience.

Verse 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 to his majesty. So this is the first evidence experiential evidence. Okay? Now, instead of complex, difficult to fathom myths that were existing in that day, Peter then says, I'm not talking about a myth here. I'm talking about what I saw. I'm not talking about a myth. I'm not talking about conjecture. I'm not talking about what you read in a book. I'm talking about what I was there for. That's different. And there is weight for eyewitness testimony. Look at verse, look at this next verse here. Verse 17. It says for when we received honor and glory from the father, God, the father, the voice was born to him by the majestic glory. So God spoke. He heard God speak. This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased.

We ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven for we were with him, God, on the holy mountain, he's saying I God didn't to speak to me in my heart. I didn't read this in a novel, a book. I heard God speak in the presence of Jesus. Those are weighty claims. You can believe them or not, but he's telling you his experience. Now what he's talking about here is called the

transfiguration. This is the sort of Jesus shifting his nature, putting off sort of setting aside as humanity and bringing on more of his full glory and his divinity. And so they were in his presence and they saw him sort of push back. It was crazy and powerful. Moses and Elijah were there and they saw him in full white glory so much so that he was just glowing, powerful in this moment on the transfiguration, Jesus displays a small fraction of his excellent radiant, powerful divinity and glory that overwhelms Peter, James and John. The other two disciples that were in that, in their midst.

Now this is Peter's story and he's using it to compel us to believe. And that's true for us too, that our stories carry weight and power. See your personal story has power for you and, and power for those around you to share it with you can share your story as a way of helping someone come to understand Jesus, my story is this real quick. I, I wasn't a Christian all the way up until college. It wasn't till I was 18 or 19 years old where someone handed me a Bible and I asked what I was supposed to do with the Bible. And they told me to read the book of John. So the arrogant young teenager, I was, I said, I've got that. Give me 36 hours. And I'll have it nailed, which is ludicrous, right?

You can't even read a chapter at 18 years old in 8 to 36 hours, let alone understand the entire Bible. I'm still figuring it out. And so I go home and I read this book and my life was radically transformed. I read John, I read Acts. I kept going. I read Romans. And I was so enthralled by the story that everything I thought I believed about the world that the light that the world was about me. That I need to sort of raise my family. My kids get them up to sort of honor my family as an example to the world to see how great of a dad I was to climb the corporate ladder to play football, whatever it was, the world was about me. I was the main character and everyone else was sort of a side character. That was my story. But when I read the scriptures that the same power that rose Jesus from the grave comes out of the pages because faith comes from hearing the word of God.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation, that power sort of came off and it hit me in my heart. And I realized that I'm not the main character of the story that Jesus is and that I actually get to look and partake in his glory. And he doesn't partake in my glory. It changed me and I can never go back. And I knew that I had to tell as many people as I could about this, Jesus, Jesus is this powerful, larger than life figure that lives a perfect life. That dies for us in our place for our sins. He absorbs our sin on him and gives us his righteousness. I get to live free, not under condemnation, but free with Christ and in Christ, it's powerful. God had written me in his story and he's writing you into his story as well. And he or he already has. I had to tell people that and you too can find this truth. Experiential evidence does work.

Next, the written word, the written word as if that was not enough for us. Peter gives us the very boiled down truth about what's most important and also about where to go for those truths. Verse 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. He says, we have a prophetic word, more fully confirmed. Peter here is referring to the Hebrew scriptures or in their day, the scriptures they were, if you're Hebrew, they're just the Scriptures, right? So these, this is the Bible for us. This is the Bible. And he's saying we have written evidence. You know, our personal stories are wonderful and powerful in their own, right,

but you know, what's more sure the inerrant written word of God because it's written down. So this is our second evidence written evidence. This is really important.

Now people think that if I believe God, if I believe in God, I'm going to have to like, sort of hear him or see him. But you know, it's really curious because we do exactly the opposite with everything else in our world. Think about it. If you buy a house, you're trying to buy a house from someone. Do you not sign a contract? Do you not want it written? Or do you just you just believe the guy who says, you know what, I'm good for it. Give me the money. I'll take the \$300,000. I'll get you the house. Or do you say what? No, we need a contract. I need it written down. Right? I need evidence for that.

We, when we get married, do you just do not get, I'm not really interested in paperwork. It's not a big deal. We'll figure it out later. Or do you get a marriage certificate, something solidifying when you graduate from school, do you just go, you know, I'm not really worried about the diploma or the degree. I know you're good for it. Or do you get a degree in a frame? And you say, I graduated. You want it in writing here. What you have here in the Bible is the written word of God it's written. This is Peter speaks. Jesus speaks to Peter in person, but he does more than that. He puts his word in writing. We in our society, we value written word. But when it comes to the Bible, we say, oh no, I've got to see Jesus. And Jesus has said many times in the Bible. If you don't believe the prophets of the Hebrew scriptures, you won't believe me. If, if someone rises from the dead.

The scriptures are testimony and evidence written and it's important. Now our experience is taken more seriously when we have written documentation for it, right? And by the way, the Bible passes the test of time. The Bible absolutely does no book in human history has been more, has endured more scrutiny than the Bible. None, no historical book is so well. Authenticated professor Bruce Metzger from Princeton. He says that Homer's Iliad is, is authenticated with 95%, 95% accuracy, which is significant. Other, other, other religious scriptures get to 80% or 90%. The Bible, the new Testament specifically is 99.5% accurate verified. And this is the most. This is the most scrutinized book in human history. 99.5% accurate. And they determined that this 0.5% does not change a single doctrine. It's usually commas periods, et cetera. That's serious.

Sir, Frederic Kenyon. And he's a British, paleographer an ancient manuscript scholar. He says, this it's gonna be on the screen. It can not be too strongly asserted. That in substance, the text of the Bible is certain, especially is this the case with the new Testament, the number of manuscripts of the new Testament of early translations from it and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the church go so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in someone or some other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world seems, seems pretty convincing. The Bible is the real deal.

Verse 20, knowing this, first of all, Peter says that no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. We didn't just pick this thing up. Okay. 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, Peter, by the way, who writes two books of the Bible, one we're studying here is saying

human beings, didn't write this. We didn't cook this thing up. We didn't get together in a huddle and go, how do we sort of put together a truth that lifts this guy, Jesus up and then all be executed for it. That sounds like a great plan. Ready break. Like that seems crazy, right? I'm not giving my life for something that's made up. I don't know about you. I want to give my life for something that's true. And that's exactly what Peter is saying. Prophecies are from God. The power of the scripture is handed down to human authors by the power of the spirit. These authors write the scriptures and by human hands, it has been verified, a Fil, a thousand a million times over.

So here's my encouragement. If you feel like you don't get it, you're still trying to figure out this Bible that's okay. This is the same holy spirit that carried the Bible's authors forward can carry you forward if you want. And you decide to follow Jesus. So Peter gives his truth. He gives the truth that he's about to die. We're all going to die. And what's most important is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. So believe the gospel. What is the gospel? By the way, if you don't know what the gospel is, it's a, it's a weird word, right? What is the gospel? The gospel is this that God is this wonderful king. And he makes a perfect world where heaven and earth overlap and are living in synchrony together.

And Adam and Eve were in the garden when they were in the garden. Originally, this is a place and the only place so far, we're heaven an earth. We're living in harmony together, and God was the king over this wonderful kingdom, but humanity pushes God out and rebels against the king. So we crafted the human kingdom. Instead, instead of God's kingdom, we want human's kingdom. And this human kingdom brings in sin. It's brokenness. Why? Because human beings were created to live in harmony with our creator. And when we don't live in harmony with our creator, we fumbled the ball. We don't know how to handle it. We sin, we break. And so the story of Jesus is that he goes into human history to die in our place for our sins, so that we receive his righteousness and we can live in harmony again with God and his kingdom.

And one day he comes back, he's ascended to heaven. And one day he comes back and all of the broken issue, experience and feel right now is all going to go away when Jesus returns, because he's going to make right. The world that we live in right now, heaven and earth are separate. He's going to bring heaven with him and drop it right on top and all sin, death rebellion, COVID, masks, all of these different things are going to finally go away forever and all time. That's the gospel. So if you're hearing, you don't know the gospel, here's my message to you. When the world and its narratives get upset, believe what's most true. Then what's most true is that Jesus Christ lived the life that we could not live and died the death that was meant for us. And that if we accept him as our savior and live in light of that, we get peace and we get joy in his midst. And then one day all of the broken issue experience gets to go away. Let's pray.

Thank you, Jesus, that we get to preach the good news of your son. Thank you, God that we get to preach the good news of your son. It's so wonderful to me and a privilege that I get to lift Jesus up and that he gets to be made known to all the people here. I pray for all my friends here that are considering receiving you right now, Lord, that they might consider that, that they would lay their lives aside and receive you. And Lord God, as we decide to make every effort to know you for our families and for ourselves and for you, Lord, would you give us supernatural strength that would allow us to do that? Let's remember you in Jesus name. Amen.