

Add to Your Faith

2nd Peter

Wow, six lessons left before we move on to our next block of lessons! What a wonderful journey it has been for me and hopefully for you as well. We've covered many topics and explored our feelings and emotions --- had silly sessions and tearful lessons. As we arrive at 2nd Peter, we should have grown, hopefully in many ways and several areas. If not, I've been ineffective or you have been unresponsive, meaning you have not responded to the Word of truth that has been delivered.

No matter what, we have been here --- so that speaks to *desire*.

2nd Peter was written around 67 AD, shortly before his death.

2nd Peter 1:12-15

Here is a curious interesting story about Peter. The story has a name. It is called the "Quo Vadis" tradition.

It goes --- Peter is being overwhelmed by others telling him to flee and save himself --- he was fleeing Rome when Jesus met him one last time. Peter asked Jesus --- where are you going (reminiscent of when they met). Jesus answered, I'm on my way to Rome to be crucified again!

Peter, ashamed and humiliated, returned to Rome to be crucified --- upside down by request, not feeling worthy to be crucified in the same way as our Lord.

Tradition also has it --- his wife, Concordia, was also martyred, Peter telling her to be brave and remember our Lord.

It is almost like Peter had forgotten all he had learned and in a spirit of fear, fled.

1. Do you sometimes feel like you are in retreat no matter how much you learn?

God does not intend for us to skip trials and testing and tribulation. The scriptures make that clear --- can we agree?

The scriptures also talk of this great joy we can have in the midst of this pilgrimage, journey here on earth.

2nd Peter chapter 1

2. What stands out to you?

2nd Peter 1:2-4

Exceedingly great and precious promises.

3. How do you implement these promises in your life today?

2nd Peter 1:5-11

These characteristics define us. They are put in a purposeful order and we can guess where we are in our walk by looking at them. Before, we did a study on each one.

He says “add to your faith”. So those things come once you’ve *made a decision*.

4. a) What is the most important characteristic you have added?

- b) What is the worst that you haven’t shed yet?

When we studied Paul’s prayers, we said he almost always was praying for knowledge of God’s word and will.

2nd Peter 1:8-9

5. What will make you feel like you are getting stronger, more confident, as a believer/representative of Christ?

Entrance into the everlasting kingdom.

Let’s pray for the knowledge of how to use knowledge.

Next week **1st John**.

“By this we know love”.