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a *Grace Notes* course

## **2 Peter**

### **Lesson 4**

#### **2 Peter 1:10 to 14**

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## 2 Peter Lesson 4

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**2 Peter***Course Outline*

There are ten (10) lessons in the 2 Peter course. Each lesson has a Quiz, to be completed and returned to Grace Notes after studying the lesson. Here is a list showing the portion of 2 Peter to be studied in each lesson.

Lesson 1	Introduction; 2 Peter 1:1 to 4
Lesson 2	2 Peter 1 :5 to 6
Lesson 3	2 Peter 1:7 to 9
<b>Lesson 4</b>	<b>2 Peter 1:10 to 14</b>
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**2 Peter 1:10**

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble"

**Therefore**

"Therefore" means on which account. "Therefore" makes a close connection of thought to verses 5-9. This is the punch line of verses 5-9.

**brethren**

Peter identifies himself with his readers. These are those who have "obtained like precious faith" with Peter.

**be even more**

"More" is a word of advance. After the smoke clears, God has a purpose for our lives as long as we are alive. Therefore, we pick ourselves up and move on. The "blind" Christian (v.9) lives in spiritual failure. If we live in carnality, we should "be more diligent" to move ahead our spiritual lives.

**diligent**

"Diligent" means to make haste, to be zealous. "Make every effort to build character into your lives. Give every atom of energy you can to this task."

"When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there" (Titus 3:12).

"Diligent" means eagerness. This is not the rah, rah approach to life. "Let's all get behind this because we use group psychology." No, this eagerness comes from the motivations previously presented in this chapter. Eagerness comes from the character qualities of verses 5-7. This person does not allow personal ambition or human drive to get in the picture. He simply rests in God's provisions.

**Principle**

Christians are to advance their spirituality even in the face of failure.

**Application**

We have no right to "feel sorry" for ourselves. We have no reason to accept defeat. No matter how we

have failed the Lord, we must pick ourselves up by God's grace and move on. God has a plan for every Christian. Get up and fight another round. Don't lie on the canvas. We have no excuse for self-pity. God always has "more" grace for us.

Some may question our walk with God. They question whether it is real to us. Our salvation might be suspect to our wives or husbands. We claim that we are Christians but others cannot see the reality of it. We can claim that we are Alexander the Great as well, but that does not make the statement true. People will examine our walk to see if it measures up to talk.

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

"Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:11).

**to make your call**

"To make" means to exercise application to the truth of your salvation. The Greek indicates that we are to keep on doing this.

The New Testament always uses "call" of the origin, nature and destiny of what we are in God's eyes. It is an invitation by God to accept the benefits of salvation. The New Testament always uses "call" of our heavenly calling.

"Call" always means the successful gospel call. The next word "election" refers to eternal election (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2). Our "call" is our summons by God and our "election" is our selection by God.

"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:29).

"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Corinthians 1:26).

"Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began" (2 Timothy 1:9).

**Principle**

From eternity, God gives us a call to enter His kingdom.

**Application**

The point in this passage is not God's relation to our calling and election but our relation to them. We need to make our calling sure.

"Election" is selection--a picking out. It is the sum total of God's plan for your life from eternity past to eternity future. God plans our lives from eternity to eternity. He meets every contingency we might face.

"For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies" (Romans 8:33).

"Knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God" (1 Thessalonians 1:4).

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:2).

We must make our election real in our lives. If we are to gain stability in our spiritual lives, we cannot do it by the gimmick system. We make our spiritual life real by appropriating to our experience our summons and selection. God's Word makes this real for us.

"Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness" (Titus 1:1).

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

**Principle**

We need to make real our election to others and to ourselves.

**Application**

We make our call and election sure. When we do this, we will know that we are Christians and others will know we are Christians as well. We obtain this assurance upon the naked, unsupported the Word of God.

We cannot convey this to other people by simply quoting verses from the Bible. We have to live in such a way that everyone who comes into contact with us knows that we have a real relationship with God. We live in a day in which talk is cheap. People view Christians as a lot of talk. That is why our lip must be reinforced by our life otherwise people will discount what we say. They will listen but they will not hear. They will pay no attention to our words (Ezekiel 33:22) and we will break through their bias against Christianity this way.

**sure**

"Sure" means firm, permanent. We need to make our summons and selection sure for ourselves.

"Sure" was a legal term in the first century for a guarantee. It was a legal guarantee obtained by a lawyer from the seller. This is a guarantee lest the third part claim the thing. Stability comes from our summons and selection. Our summons and selection is already present.

"Sure" is emphasized in the Greek sentence. The Christian should stand firm on his feet and be steadfast. The Christian stands on solid ground when he legally validates the confirmation of the "sale" of his salvation. God will make good on His promises. God secures the payment of salvation. There is no "money back" guarantee because we will get the product.

We need to stabilize our salvation. It is not unstable from God's standpoint. It is unstable from our standpoint.

**Principle**

We prove our salvation by fulfilling the injunctions of verses 5-7.

**Application**

We cannot make our calling and election more sure than they already are but we can gain assurance that we belong to Him. God has already completed it but we can confirm the call in our

mind by fulfilling the character qualities of verses 5-7.

### for if you do these things

"These things" are the character qualities of verses 5-7. This phrase occurs five times in following verse seven. They always refer to the qualities listed in verses 5-7.

"Do" means to practice. We must practice our salvation (Joshua 1:8; John 13:17; James 1:22). God expects us to do the things listed in verses 5-7. But it takes work to develop character qualities.

Do you work at those virtues for your life? We must get in shape spiritually. It takes exercise to develop spiritual muscle. Many Christians carry a great amount of spiritual flab. They cannot run the Christian life very well. They cannot gain momentum.

### you will never stumble

"Stumble" means literally fall. We will not become a wretched Christian if we keep the character qualities of verses 5-7. The New Testament often uses "stumble" for the carnal Christian. "Stumble" means to "fall" out of fellowship. God makes every provision to keep His children from failing. When we make our salvation real in our lives, God will keep us from stumbling spiritually.

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

### Principle

There is no need to constantly stumble in our spiritual lives because God will provide for us if we appropriate His grace.

### Application

The "fall" of this verse is not the fall from salvation, for we cannot fall out of salvation. But we can fall from reward and fall into sin.

Christians can also fall into disrepute. We can bring criticism upon Christ. We can be a liability to His cause instead of an asset. We can fall out of fellowship. When we do, we invite the chastening of God upon our lives. God may take us to the woodshed and we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Everyone who starts the Christian life will finish in heaven. But how we finish is the true question. Will we finish stronger than we began? We finish well when we get a prize at the end. If we receive no rewards, then we have not finished well. What will your status be in heaven?

Some Christians are spiritually shipwrecked for most of their lives. Though they have not lost their salvation, they have lost effectiveness in their spiritual lives. There is no need to constantly stumble.

However we will surely stumble if we look at other Christians. When we tailgate a car ahead of us, we risk smashing into it. When we follow other Christians too closely, we risk smashing into their weaknesses and following their failures.

Inevitably, we will get hurt if we follow other Christians too closely. They may stop suddenly spiritually. Other Christians are frail and fall just like us.

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent" (Revelation 2:5).

### 2 Peter 1:11

"For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

### For so an entrance

"Entrance" is literally the road into. Jesus is the road to heaven. John calls Him "the road" (John 14:6).

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and

living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh" (Hebrews 10:19-20).

God will welcome us in heaven. Paul spoke of his welcome as imminent (2 Timothy 4:7-8,18). He will admit us into His heaven. Each Christian will receive a rich welcome when we enter the gates of heaven.

"So" indicates that our entrance into heaven will be victorious. "So" means "in this way." Jesus is the way to heaven. He gives us the authority to enter by what He did on the cross for our sins.

### **Principle**

God will supply for us a grand entrance into heaven.

### **Application**

Our Lord is the road to heaven by virtue of His shed blood for our sins.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way [literally, the road], the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'" (John 14:6).

### **will be supplied to you**

The word "supplied" means to furnish or provide (at one's own expense, cf. 1:5). "Supplied" in the Greek originally meant to cover the finances for the chorus of the Greek drama. Such a person was likely exceedingly wealthy since the costs of the drama were high. Similarly God will provide whatever is necessary to meet our needs.

Our entrance into heaven will be in an abundant manner. In the passive (as here), it means that God will grant us an entrance into heaven.

### **abundantly**

The word "abundantly" means in large amounts (Ephesians 2:4).

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

The Christian will have a grand entrance into heaven (1 Thessalonians 1:9; 2:1; Hebrews 10:19). God grants us entry into His presence. Every Christian has eternal life but not every Christian has an abundant Christian life.

### **Principle**

God spares no expense in meeting our needs.

### **Application**

We supply the virtue and God supplies our abundant entrance into heaven.

Just there are two ways to live the Christian life, so there are two ways to enter the everlasting kingdom. We enter the kingdom when we receive Jesus as our Savior. However we enter the kingdom abundantly when we live a victorious Christian life. That is a bonus. Not all Christians will have the same status in the eternal kingdom.

### **into the everlasting kingdom**

Jesus challenged his disciples to pray that the kingdom would come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven,

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

God has not answered this prayer yet but will answer it when Jesus comes back. Then He will set up His kingdom on earth. At that time, God's purpose will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. God will enforce the King's will on earth in time. Jesus has not yet reigned in His kingdom. One day He will. And Christians will reign with Him. This will change our career.

"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (Revelation 3:21).

This kingdom will not come through the church; it will come through the coming of Christ. Oh what a day it will be!!

Presently Satan is the god of his world (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 5:19). One day Jesus will be King Jesus, King of the World.

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

"Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth'" (Jeremiah 23:5).

"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'" (Revelation 11:15).

The day of Christ's kingdom will be a day of divine monarchy, not democracy. Jesus will reign as King Jesus, King of the world. He will not need a Parliament or Congress. He will make unilateral decisions. His headquarters will be in Jerusalem, not Beijing or Washington. Maybe someone should inform the United Nations of this event!

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,  
And from the River to the ends of the earth"  
(Psalm 72:8).

### Principle

Jesus will bring in time and on earth perfect government.

### Application

All the crime and distortions of life without a King will be corrected in the kingdom. For the first time history, there will be perfect government. No one will lock his or her car or house.

The rapture will trigger a series of prophetic events beginning with the tribulation and ending in the millennial kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, the millennial kingdom will usher in the "everlasting kingdom."

Have you inherited the kingdom of God?

"For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:5).

Only those who have had a second birth, a spiritual birth, will enter the kingdom.

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'" (John 3:3).

We are born again only through belief in the death of Christ for our sins.

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14).

### of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Note this title for our Lord. This is His full title. He is both Lord and Savior.

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

2 Peter is the only book in the New Testament that calls Him "Lord and Savior" and it calls Him that four times (2:20; 3:2,18).

Note the order of His titles. First and foremost, He is Lord. He has the right to be King over our lives. He has right over our family, our career, our business, our sex life and our domestic life. If we have any area of our lives that we do not submit to King Jesus then it is illegitimate. We must submit everything we have and own to Him.

We dare not, say to the Lord, "Here are all the keys of my life, except one. That key is not yours; it's mine. I lock you out of that area of my life." When we crown Him king of our lives, we crown Him Lord of all. We give Him the keys of every room of our lives. He must have access to the kitchen as well as the bedroom. He is Lord.

"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18).

### Principle

Jesus has the right to be preeminent in our lives.

### Application

What is your estimation of Jesus as Lord of your life? Is He worthy to be king of your life? He should be king of our home. He is the divine umpire of our families. It does not do any good to argue with the Umpire. He is the ultimate divine arbitrator between husbands and wives. There is nothing wrong with His calls on our lives. He is not prejudiced toward us. He possesses all the



facts and understands unseen components that we do not see.

If you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He can recognize that not only save your soul, but salvage your life. He will call the shots. If we quarterback and coach our own lives, we will lose the spiritual way.

## 2 Peter 1:12

"For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth"

With verse 12 we begin a new section dealing with the Christian's nourishment in the Word of God (1:12-21). The focus turns from the work of God in of individual Christians, to the Word of God as the instrument of nurture.

### For this reason

Since Asia Minor Christians possess a faith that sustains godliness, Peter now insists that they live by truth.

Peter reminded his audience three times to retain the contents of this epistle (1:12,13,15; cf. 3:1).

"I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62:6-7).

### Principle

Christian leaders (who are sharp) review crucial doctrines regularly for their people.

### Application

We need to be reminded of what we already know to prevent dullness toward it or worse still, our forgetting it.

Evangelicals need stability in doctrine. If Christians are not aware of the peculiar trends of our day, we will become unstable.

### I will not be negligent

Peter is about to present a proposal with a purpose. "Will" means be about to, be on the point of. Peter will ever be ready to remind Christians of God's Word. Peter will die but truth will continue. Even

though Peter is about to die, this passage will live into centuries to come.

Second Peter still speaks to us as we stand at the door of the twenty-first century. No pastor can afford to build his ministry on personality, some human system or gimmick. He must build his ministry on the eternal Word of God.

Peter's purpose is to remind the Asia Minor Christians of "truth." Every pastor must come to this point sooner or later.

### Principle

Leaders must be diligent in leading their group find truth.

### Application

Many of us operate under the delusion that anything is good enough for the Savior. We preach and sing without preparation. Anything is good enough for the Lord "as long as it is sincere." The idea is that you don't have to be good as long as you are earnest--that you do not need to be properly equipped to serve the Lord. How would you like your surgeon to remove your appendix with that attitude? God's work should not be a hobby whereby we give Him only our spare time.

### to remind you always of these things

Peter knew his days were numbered. He now speaks of important components of Christianity because so little time on earth remains for him. At the point of death, we speak of the things that are of most importance to us.

God's purpose for the believer is to know the importance of God's Word. This is a daily challenge for every leader.

The "these things" are seven items listed in verses 5-7. "These things" have to do with the Christian life. When we get sloppy with Christian living, we become a distinct liability to the cause of Christ. We are not an asset. We are not a good advertisement of Christ. We are not a help, but a hindrance.

### though you know

"You already know these matters, but nevertheless I will always remind you of them." It is one thing

to know these things in our minds and it is another to know them in our hearts.

### Principle

We need to familiarize ourselves with the familiar.

### Application

A good minister always reminds his congregation of foundational truths. The pastor who does not his congregation of truth is a bad minister of Jesus Christ. We do not have to hear new and novel things. Dr. Harry Ironside used us say, "If it's new, it's not true, and if it's true, it's not new." Many leaders today try to be sensational and spectacular to gain the attraction of their followers. A "good minister" is someone who nourishes his followers in the faith.

"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed" (1 Timothy 4:6).

We cannot drive a 100 miles an hour through the countryside and enjoy the beauty of the landscape around us. Neither can we speed through the Christian life and appreciate what the Lord has done for us. We need to spend time in the Word and thus in truth.

### and are established

"Established" means to fix, make fast, to set. "Established" means to put or place something firmly in a location -- to cause to be fixed, to establish in a place. The idea is stabilizing someone in truth.

The Lord called upon Peter to stabilize his brethren (Luke 22:32). Paul wanted to visit Rome to establish them (Romans 1:11) and Timothy at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:2). It is the work of God to stabilize the saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:17). We are to stabilize our own hearts (James 5:8).

"Established" carries the idea of strengthening, to cause someone to become stronger or more firm and unchanging in attitude or belief. Asia Minor saints became stabilized in the truth and were being set fast in truth. Peter's purpose is to set cardinal truth of their faith in their thinking.

"But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren" (Luke 22:32).

"Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith" (Acts 14:22).

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily" (Acts 16:5).

We gain stability by knowing. We first gain knowledge-then stability. We cannot reverse this process. Stability does not precede knowledge.

We do not gain stability by reading "How to Win Friends and Influence People" or "How to Succeed in Selling?"

### Principle

If the believer needs stability.

### Application

A shock absorber on a car gives stability to the car. Likewise, if we cannot take the shocks of life, we will lack stability in life. All Christians need equilibrium. What gives us equilibrium in our lives? Truth, God's truth. Equilibrium is a state of balance produced by two or more forces. There needs to be a balance between what we believe and what God says in His Word.

"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 5:10).

### in the present truth

"In the present truth" is the truth present within us through instruction from our pastors and teachers. This is not truth at present under consideration.

"Truth" is the reality behind appearance; the manifested, veritable essence of the matter (Romans 9:1; 2 Corinthians 11:10; Galatians 2:5).

"O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?" (Galatians 3:1).

"Truth" here is the deposit of faith (Jude 3).

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to

contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Truth is something we can always possess and never lose. Truth goes with us everywhere we go. Moreover, we spend time with what we love. If we love the truth, we will spend time with the Word.

Stability here is not strong character or human security. The stabilizer is the Word of God. Some people try to find stability in a bank account. But we can have a lot of money and still be unstable. Success is not the stabilizer of life either. Friends or a wonderful social life will not give us stability. Neither will health, sex, material things, or status symbols stabilize us. Only the Bible gives us that stability (Matthew 4:4).

If you depend on a loved one to give you stability, you make a major mistake. You may think that you have the most wonderful romance in the world. You have the love of the century. But people can change every hour, on the hour. We kid ourselves if we think that people can give us stability. We will wind up unhappy.

Some people think that "all I have to do is get married and my troubles will be over." No, that is when your troubles begin! That is when you start to find out what adult troubles are like. If you want perpetual youth, don't get married!! This is not to say that marriage is a horrible institution. It is not. I am not as cynical as that. No, the point is that stability comes from the Word of God and not from people. Why? Stability comes from the Author of the Word of God. He designed everything. He designed you. He designed your marriage.

Instability is the norm in our day. The things of life are here today and gone tomorrow. Our relationships are here one day and gone another. We laugh one moment and cry the next.

### Principle

There is no way to live the Christian life apart from Scripture.

### Application

The means to effect confirmation in our souls is the Word of God.

We cannot live the Christian life without the Bible. The Word of God is our chart, our compass,

our bill of rights and our only infallible rule of faith and practice.

Just any kind of life that is gentle, kind and even loving is not the Christian life. Any thing less that what the Bible describes as the Christian life is not Christian. We may have a good life, a nice life or even a beautiful life but it may not be the Christian life. The Christian life begins with Christ. When Christ comes into our lives, we become Christians. There is no Christian life without Christ. He lives His life within us.

The difference between Christians is the extent to which they yield control of their lives to Christ. Some of us are very stubborn. We do not give up easily. We want to handle our lives and not allow Him to control us. Some things are beneath the dignity of the child of God although they may not be sinful.

Life is mutable. Immutability only comes from the immutable One. God's Word gives stability in an unstable world. Only truth is eternal and only truth can sanctify.

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

### 2 Peter 1:13

"Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you"

### Yes, I think it is right

"I think" is an accounting term. It originally referred to leading, to lead the way, to preside. Later it came to mean to consider or to lead before the mind, account (Philippians 2:3,6,25; 3:7,8; 2 Thessalonians 3:15; 1 Timothy 1:12; 6:1; Hebrews 10:29; 11:11; James 1:2; 2 Peter 3:9). This word came to mean to think in principles. "Yes, I think it is right to think in principles." "Think" then means to lead principles out before the mind. Character forms from what we think about God's Word.

"Right" means "fitting" here. Peter is thinking in terms of a right principle. It means to do the right thing. "It is fitting that I write to remind you because I am about to die." Peter developed a sense of responsibility to give Asia Minor Christians vital truth before he died.

**Principle**

Character comes from the application of the principles of God's Word to our experience.

**Application**

When young people grow up in homes where they are not taught principle, they grow up lacking responsibility. Responsibility does not come through discipline. Discipline gives training as to what is wrong. All children need this. However, a parent must go beyond discipline since discipline merely keeps children in line.

The only way a parent can endow a child with a sense of responsibility is to communicate principles to them. Young people die for their country, not because of discipline, but because they know the principles for which their country stands. They understand the principle of fighting for freedom.

The philosophy of liberalism does not teach principle. It teaches freedom. Freedom without principle is vacuous. Liberalism promotes lack of initiative. It teaches dependence on the state, not upon operating principles that transcend the state. This philosophy has helped produce a generation without a sense of responsibility because it does not operate on principle.

We cannot have a true sense of responsibility without operating principles in deep within our person. These principles need to be taught and derived from the Word of God.

A man has a woman out on a date. They may be in some secluded place. There is just the two of them. If he has a sense of responsibility developed from principle, he will hold back. If he is simply looking to fulfil his own pleasure, he is devoid of principle. He will pursue the lusts of the flesh. Taboos will not prevent them from having sex.

In marriage, he will carry that same sense of responsibility. He will be true to his wife. She will have security because she knows he carries principles with him that will not yield to temptation. He has a sense of responsibility both to himself and to his wife.

A girl goes to college and faces the choice of joining a sorority. She thinks she can have an adequate social life without a sorority. A

Christian, who thinks in terms of principles, can live independent from the idea they need friends or social life structured for them. People who join an organization like this live a life without character, without principle. Character does not come from what we do; it comes from what we think in terms of principles.

**as long as I am in this tent**

This section of 2nd Peter is intensely personal because it uses the personal pronouns "I" and "me" many times. Peter alludes to his imminent death. He lived many years knowing that he was not going to die a natural death. Jesus told Peter in advance about Peter's coming death (John 21:18-19).

"Tent" refers to Peter's body. It conveys the idea of a pilgrimage in our earthly body. Peter is about to end his earthly pilgrimage and go to his permanent home in heaven. He is ready to take off his body and go to Glory. That is a description of Christian death.

You are not your body. You are more than your body. Non-Christians think that when they die that they are just plopped into the grave. That is the end of them. They place them into the casket where there is nothing but a blackout. They place both body and soul there. However, Christian teaching is that you are your soul and you have a body. Your body is where your soul lives.

**to stir you up**

"Stir" means to awake, excite, arouse, and animate. Peter is in the business of turning people on to right principle. Peter wants to activate their minds. Peter proposes to activate their minds by reminding them of things they were previously taught. He arouses their minds by reminding them of truth from God's Word.

**by reminding you**

"Reminding" means with remind with authority. When we communicate truth, we inculcate authoritative principles for life.

Peter is in the course of explaining his approach to death. He now gives them his perspective on death. Repetition of principles is a key to leadership.

**Principle**

Good leadership rouses people to spiritual realities.

**Application**

Peter is in the business of stirring people towards spirituality. "I am going to move you, if I can, into a body of information crucial to your Christianity." Peter is in the process of awaking or rousing the Christians of his day. He sounds an alert. He blasts a warning trumpet to rise people out of their lethargy.

That is the idea of "revival." We do not revive something that is dead. We revive the living. Non-Christians cannot be revived, only Christians. Revival is a movement of the Holy Spirit within the hearts of God's people.

**2 Peter 1:14**

"Knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me"

**Knowing**

This is the second occurrence of "knowing." Knowing is how we form principles. As long as Peter is in his body, he is going to teach the Asia Minor Christians principles about eternal perspectives.

that shortly

"Shortly" means impending, near at hand. Death is near at hand for Peter.

**I must put off my tent,**

"Put off" is a metaphor of taking off a garment (2 Corinthians 5:3,4). "Put off my tent" means put off my body as a garment. Our "tent" or body is simply the cocoon or shell that surrounds the person. Physical death is impending for Peter. Peter says he is going to die. When he dies, that will be his liberation, his emancipation. "They will bury the remains of my body but my soul will continue in heaven."

To put off our tent (our bodies) is death for a believer. Every Christian has three components, a body, a soul and a spirit.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming

of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

The above verse lists the three components of the Christian in order of importance: spirit, soul and body. The "spirit" and "soul" are intangible. We cannot see or smell them. We can see, smell and touch the "body." Our "spirit" and "soul" are not resident in our arm. If we lose our arm, we do not lose our personality.

We are not our body. When it is time for us to move out of our body, they bury the body but our two intangible parts continue. They only bury the physical "remains." God will eventually resurrect even the body (1 Corinthians 15). Some bodies will be resurrected to eternal life and other will be resurrected to condemnation (Revelation 20:5,6).

"and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:29).

The body and the spirit are not the same.

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:26).

On the cross, Jesus said to one of the thieves who were dying with him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43)." He did not say, "Today you will be with me in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea."

**Principle**

Every Christian has the expectation of eternal life.

**Application**

No matter how sorry a life we might have lived as a Christian, we each have the prospect of eternity before us. No Christian will ever face condemnation.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

The non-Christian will face judgment.

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

In the eternal state there is no more suffering (Revelation 21:4). Every believer receives an eternal inheritance (1 Peter 1:4,5) and a new home

(John 14:1-6). One day we will receive a resurrection body (1 John 3:1,2; Philippians 3:21).

At the point of belief in Christ's death to forgive our sins, every Christian receives eternal life (1 John 5:11,12). We possess eternal life from the moment we believe in the death of Christ for our sins (John 5:24).

### **I must put off my tent,**

If God were to destroy our "tent"--that is, destroy our earthly body--He will give us another body ("a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens"). That is our permanent body that we receive at the first resurrection. The tent in which we now live is temporal and subject to death. When our present bodies drop into the grave, they will go back to dust.

### **Principle**

When a Christian dies, he or she goes immediately into the presence of God in heaven.

### **Application**

When we go out to the cemetery, we should not go under the delusion that we buried our loved one there in that cold, icy grave. If you have a religion like that, trade it in. Find the truth as it is in Scripture. Your body goes to the grave but your soul and spirit goes to be with the Lord. When non-Christians die, they go to a Christless eternity. When Christians die, they go immediately and instantaneously into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).

The moment death strikes the believer goes immediately into the presence of the Lord Jesus. We say, "Good night" here and "Good morning" there. No Christian should be apprehensive of death.

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14).

### **just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me**

Peter ministered over thirty years knowing he was not going to die a natural death. He knew he was not going to die in bed. The Lord Jesus revealed this to him in the gospel of John.

"Most assuredly, I say to you [Peter], when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.' This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me'" (John 21:18-19).

Peter's death hung over his head for thirty years. All of us know we will die eventually if we are not raptured first, but most of us think we will die a natural death. Peter knew he was to die a violent death. Most of us think we will die of natural causes. That is a comforting thought to some extent.

Peter now writes Second Peter in the face of his imminent death. He knew that this would be the last time he would write them. Paul knew when he wrote Second Timothy that epistle would be his last letter as well.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure [death] is at hand" (2 Timothy 4:6).

Paul gives his perspective on death in Philippians, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you" (Philippians 1:21-24).

Paul could not help the folks at Philippi if he had died and gone to heaven. This statement gives a lie to spiritism (contacting of the spirits of the dead in the other world).

A great section of Scripture that deals with the body and death is 2 Corinthians, chapter 5. The word "tent" occurs twice in the opening verses.

"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring

to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life" (2 Corinthians 5:1-4).

Paul talked of being in the body and out of the body.

"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter" (2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

The only part of the human being that "sleeps" when death occurs is the body. The soul does not sleep. "Soul-sleep" is not Scriptural. The word "cemetery" means "sleeping place" but it is only a "sleeping place" for the body.

### **Principle**

Death causes us to take stock of eternal things.

### **Application**

When death approaches, it makes us all take stock. Peter's death was coming near; therefore, he was taking stock of himself and those to whom he was writing. The burden upon his heart is truth. He wanted them to remember certain truths or doctrines about going to heaven.

Peter saw clearly the body is not the soul. It merely houses the soul. The body is destructible but the soul is not. Except for the time of the rapture, all of us will put off our bodies. Our bodies will lie in the grave until their resurrection.

Does Psalm 116:15 sound strange to you?

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15).

If using the word "precious" in terms of death is strange to you it is because you are earth-bound. You are chained to the values of this life. You are earth-oriented rather than heaven-oriented.