

I Want To Remind You – 2 Peter 1:1-15

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER GS712 – *Wednesday Night, May 5th, 2021*
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Introduction

When we look to Scripture, we see that the importance of reminders becomes clear. This was certainly true when it came to the Israelites. God had them carry around in the ark, physical reminders. Manna, Aarons rod that budded, and the 10 commandments. We see Joshua command the people to set up memorial stones after they miraculously crossed the Jordan. In the New Testament, we see that Jesus tells His disciples to take communion in remembrance of Him.

As we come to 2 Peter 1, this is exactly Peter's goal and intention, is to remind them.

I Want To Stir You Up By Reminding You (verses 12-15)

As we look at this passage today, it is crucial for our understanding that we start with the last verses that we just read. This will put today in the context of the purpose of what Peter writes.

It is by these four verses that we see Peter clearly state the aim and purpose of the entire letter. The intention was to leave an authoritative statement to which his readers could refer to again and again.

"For this reason..." (v.12a)

Peter is about to give the purpose of the previous verses (verses 1-11).

Peter assures his readers that he will not be negligent to write these things to them as a reminder. The idea is that Peter cares to much about his readers to not consistently and constantly remind them of what we are studying today. (v.12b)

He is aware of the fact that they know the things he said and that they are even established in them! That is to say that Peter is not divulging a new revelation to them but rather reminding them of truths they are already aware of and even may have strengths in. (v.12c)

YET, Peter says it is right that while he is still on this earth, that he stirs them up by way of reminder! (v.13)

To Stir Up: to stimulate thinking & refresh memory

Same word used in other contexts means to arouse from sleep in a sudden and immediate manner.

- after the angel met Joseph in his dream and he was "aroused" from sleep
- when they "woke up" Jesus from his nap during the crazy storm on the Sea of Galilee

PETER DESIRES TO STIR UP HIS READERS! To stimulate their thinking and wake them up!
He didn't want his readers to become stagnant Christians where there is no inflow and outflow but rather stir them up!

Romans 13:11

And do this, knowing the time, that now *it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

Peter knew that his time was coming that he would see Jesus face to face. It was Jesus who had revealed this to him. Yet he assured his audience that he would be careful (*do his best and make every effort*) to ensure that they would **ALWAYS** have these reminders, even after he was gone.

How fitting that these very words are now considered the very written word of God that will never fade away. (v.14-15)

Philippians 3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is not tedious, but for you it is safe.*

We are forgetful people & stubborn. We need the Word of God to be our guard rails and remind us who we are and who He is!

Isn't this so often how God works in our life?

- whether it is that verse we have read and heard a thousand times but then it smacks us right in the heart differently than it ever had before, it stirs us up?
- or a person that God uses, no new revelation, simply the timeless truth of the Word of God in order to wake us up

Peter doesn't just want to get them all hyped up and stirred emotionally but he gives them a practical game plan. Like when it is half time and the team gets together. The coach doesn't just hype up the team but gives them a practical plan!

"If Peter was here today, these are the things he would want to remind you in order to stir you up!

I Want To Remind You... Of God's Power & Promises (verses 1-4)

We know that this is Peter writing to those who are of the household of faith. (v.1-2)

God's Power (v.3)

Verse three starts the body of what he is communicating to them. We learn here that God's divine power is that of a giving and providing power.

What has His power provided for us?

ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness

This is both broad (life) and specific (godliness).

But these two things are connected. It is that God has given us everything necessary to live a godly life. He has given us the power to live a life that pleases Him.

There is a purpose to His power! Power without purpose is pointless. It is like a pickup truck with no tires. There might be a big engine but it ain't going to accomplish much.

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has prepared good works for us that we should walk in them!

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

I love the logic behind this! If God sacrificed His only Son for us, what will he withhold from us?

Colossians 2:10 tells us that we are complete in Him, meaning we have everything we need!

"you are complete in Him"

Through what way do we access this power?

"through the knowledge of Him"

As we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus more and more, we will find that we have all we need for life and to live a godly one.

He has called us by His glory and by His virtue and you all know the faithful saying, "Where God guides, God provides."

LOOK NO FURTHER, EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS PROVIDED IN JESUS BY THE POWER OF GOD

God's Promises (v.4a)

BY THIS providing power we are given exceedingly great & precious promises.

We see two details listed about his promises...

Exceedingly great: remarkable, BIG & out of the ordinary
Precious: of inexpressible value

C.H. Spurgeon

"Many things are great which are not precious, such as great rocks, which are of little value; on the other hand, many things are precious which are not great-such as diamonds and other jewels, which cannot be very great if they be very precious. But there we have promises which are so great, that they are not less than infinite, and so precious, that they are not less than divine."

Is this not true regarding the promises of God that we have in Christ?

- *promise to forgive our sin and remember them no more*
- *promise to never leave us nor forsake us / promise of His Holy Spirit*
- *promise of our eternal security in Him*

HOWEVER.....we all know that a promise is only as good as the power of the person to be able to keep that promise.

Anyone can make a promise, but it is an altogether different thing to possess the power to keep a promise.

Like when you buy a car and are working a deal. Before that car salesman can give the okay, he has to go check with his manager. Because his promises without the power to make it happen isn't worth very much,

Praise be to God that He has the power to back His promises. To keep His promises.

But what does this power & these promises ultimately culminate to in the life of a Christian?

Our Partaking (v.4b)

"that through these you may be PARTAKERS of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

His power enabled His promises which has allowed us to become partakers.

His Power + His Promises = Our Partaking

Partaker: sharer, a person who participates in something with another

This is the reality for the Christian. His Holy Spirit has entered our life in a way that we are connected to him where we participate in His very nature..

Ultimately, we will escape the corruption of this world which is death. Even if we die, Jesus said yet shall we live. But not only is this corruption regarding death but there is a present reality that we can escape from the corruption now in Christ!

It is through the power and promises of God, we can take part in His very nature and we can become unspotted from the filth and lust of this world.

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS... which then brings us to our second reminder.

I Want To Remind You... Of Your Need for Diligence (verses 5-7)

He has given us His power & He has given us His promises. God has set everything up for us.

Like T-ball, we just need to step up to the plate and swing. If you have ever seen T-Ball, those kids are so set up for success! So has God set us up for success! "He won't swing the bat for us"

Jerry Bridges, in the Pursuit of Holiness, gives a brilliant example a farmer....

He speaks of how a farmer plows his field, sows the seed, fertilizes, and cultivates his farm at the same time knowing that the product his labor is entirely dependent upon forces outside of himself.

That a farmer knows that he cannot cause the seed to germinate, he cannot produce the rain or sunshine for growing and harvesting. He is entirely dependent upon God for these things yet the farmer knows that unless he diligently pursues his responsibilities, he will not be able to expect a harvest.

"In a sense he is in a partnership with God, and he will reap its benefits only when he has fulfilled his own responsibilities. Farming is a joint venture between God and the farmer. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer must do."

Ever heard the saying..... "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink."

"For this very reason"

- in light of God's power & promises towards us

v.3-4 is God's part, He has supplied the power & given the promises for us to be partakers...

v.5-7 transition into our part. Our response to the supplied power & given promises.

"Giving all diligence, add to your faith"

Giving: to do ones very best to bring into effect & operation.

All: entirely, completely, to the fullest extent

Diligence: eagerness, excitement, and effort to accomplish some end

Another way to put it is to be **ALL IN**

There are many things that people give all diligence to in life! You know some people just have their thing and they put all their time and attention to it. There is a guy who retired a few years back and he makes it a point to go to every single Dodger game. He knows the analytics in a way where he chooses to sit where the ball is most likely to be a homerun. **HE IS ALL IN.**

It is good to have our personal passions & enjoy the life God gave us, HOWEVER, \ how does it compare to the passion and enthusiasm that we have to add to our faith?

Romans 12:11 tells us that we are to not be lagging in diligence & to be fervent in spirit.

"Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit..."

Lagging: to be lazy & reluctant

Fervent: to be inflamed, to show great enthusiasm

Oswald Chambers – My Utmost for His Highest

"My determination is to be my utmost for His Highest... To get there is a question of will, not of debate nor of reasoning, but a surrender of will, an absolute and irrevocable surrender on that point. "

"Add to your FAITH"

Faith is the foundation. We saw this back in verse 1, Peter says “*precious faith*”. You can’t build anything without a foundation. There has to be a starting point.

Peter then begins his list of 7 qualities that are to be added upon our faith.

You can look at faith like the base ingredient & these 7 as the additives.

It has been said before that here we have Peter’s golden chain of Christian virtues. There are seven jewels, and all of them are fastened to faith.

From Faith add Virtue

This is moral excellence. (based on God’s standards)

Self-imposed higher standards. Not pressured from an outside source to perform.

Think of a **virtuous person** is someone who has high standards for himself.

This is with small & big things of life.

- small as in putting away shopping carts - big as in not cheating on your taxes

But this word virtue is more than just moral excellence & higher standards....

Commentators speak of this as also valor like that of a soldier. That of strength and courage.

True “virtue” is not a tame and passive thing. Not just abstaining.

There are plenty of relatively “moral” people, virtue is that of excellence in every area of life for the goal of glorifying God and fulfilling the very reason we were created.

Remember back in verse 3, God has called us by His glory and His virtue. He sets the standard.

From Virtue add Knowledge

God desires us to grow in our knowledge of Him & His word.

Faith doesn’t replace knowledge. We don’t have blind faith where we check our minds at the door.

The Christian ought to be a student of the Word & a student of the world God made.

At the end of this letter...

2 Peter 3:18

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

From Knowledge add Self Control

Knowledge isn’t enough by itself.

Sometimes there is too big of a gap between what we know and what we do.

Proverbs 25:28

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

Many times, Paul talked about the Christian as an athlete who must exercise discipline over himself. Paul tells us in **Galatians 5:22** that self-control is a fruit of the Spirit that is produced in the life of one walking in the Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

From Self Control add Perseverance

This is that steadfast endurance. The power to withstand hardship & stress. Inward fortitude.

We know from **James 1** that perseverance is not something that develops automatically but it develops over time as we experience trials and tribulations.

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

From Perseverance add Godliness

Godliness is god-likeness. It is to be like Jesus.

1 Timothy 4:7 tells us we are to exercise ourselves toward godliness.

“Exercise yourself toward godliness”

1 Timothy 6:11 tells us that godliness is something we should pursue.

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”

It is to seek to do the RIGHT thing before God in every situation.

From Godliness add Brotherly Kindness

Brotherly Kindness: affectionate type of love, that towards family

Romans 12:10

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

To show brotherly kindness or love is to give preference to one another!

1 Peter 1:22

²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

Not passive but it is to pursue fervently.

From Brotherly Kindness add Love

This is to learn to unselfishly seek the best for others for their benefit. This is the principal quality of the follower of God within the Bible. This quality trumps all others.

Colossians 3:14

¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Bond: that which connects and brings together, that which ties together

- how a joint in the body, connects to other bones to work together

1 Corinthians 16:14 tells us that everything we do must be done with love.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”

Love being the capstone! Starts with faith and ends with love. God doesn't passively do these things in our life. It truly is a working partnership.

HE provides everything necessary by His power and promises, but then we must live it out and we must seek to obey Him in everything.

Which then brings us to Peter's final reminder here in verses 8-11....

I Want To Remind You... Of The End Result (verses 8-11)

After going through this list of qualities that the Christian is to be diligent to add to their lives, Peter gives us the results of those who abound and the result of those who lack these things....

Abounding (read v.8)

Don't be discouraged by Peter's use of this word "abound"

Abound: not only does this word speak of abundance but it first notes the idea of increasing!

Christian, are you increasing in these things listed? This list is not given as a discouragement but in order to stir us up!

If you are increasing in these things, then you will neither be barren nor unfruitful!
- useful & fruitful As Paul notes in 2 Timothy 2, you will be a vessel fit for the Master's use.

Notice yet again, its connected to knowing Jesus. "in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

John 15:5

⁵"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

These things are ultimately produced in our life from our connection to Jesus!

Lacking (read v.9)

On the other side of the coin, there is a very serious result of those who lack these things or those who don't give any diligence to grow in them....

Shortsighted: nearsighted, unable to see in the distance.

Even to blindness: it's a blindness that is self-imposed. Like shutting your eyes.

There will be a serious lack of spiritual discernment.

This lack of growth causes a spiritual blindness that then leads to forgetfulness!

Forgetful of the cleansing & forgiveness he has obtained.

It's like someone being freed from prison but then going back because they forgot they were freed.

This no doubt will lead to someone questioning their very salvation. The lack of fruit in their life will take away their confidence of salvation.

THEREFORE (read v.10) with this end result in mind Peter gets to the culmination of this text.

"be even more diligent"

This is of course in reference to verse 5. "giving all diligence"

As much time, effort, enthusiasm, and passion we are to give to adding those 7 qualities to our lives, there is an area where we must be even more diligent.

This area comes back down to what we talked about before, these qualities are to be added to our faith which is the foundation. But without the foundation, there is no building. Without faith, even those who would attempt to add these things to their life, in the end these qualities wouldn't save them from paying for their sins in eternity.

2 Timothy 3:5

⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Call: invitation

2 Timothy 1:9 tells us that God saved us and called us with a holy calling.

"Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling."

It's that salvation call & invitation that goes out to all men from God.

Have you ever heard of an RSVP? The term "RSVP" comes from the French expression *répondez s'il vous plaît*, meaning "please respond." If RSVP is written on an invitation, it means the host has requested that the guest respond to say if they plan to attend.

Titus tells us the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Election: choice or selection, that which has been chosen

This is referring to God's choosing. God has sent out His invitation to all men, our responsibility is to respond in faith. God knows those who are His. He knows those who will respond. He has known since before the foundation of the world. Whenever Scripture speaks of the doctrine of election, it is always preceded by His foreknowledge.

Think of a Wedding

Call = Invitation (please RSVP)

Election = Seating Chart (based on the RSVP, there is going to be a seat assigned to you)

The Bible tells us that we must make that call and election SURE.

Sure: to be certain, to be verified & proved to be true

This word is in the present tense meaning that it must be something we currently do and to continue to do!

Peter Exhorts his readers to be diligent to make this sure. They do this by following through with the RSVP.

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Peter wants his readers to have a confidence in this in the face of so much false teaching.

To be fully convinced. So that no one could come and convince them otherwise.

Warren Wiersbe

It is not our profession of faith that guarantees that we are saved; it is our progression in the faith that gives us that assurance.

As we look at this list, we need to understand that these things don't determine our salvation but they certainly give us assurance of our salvation.

We know we are not saved by works but James clearly tells us that faith without works is dead!

John the Baptist said to bear fruits worthy of repentance. The fruit of our lives is the evidence and confidence of our salvation.

"if you do these things you will never stumble"

Stumble: to trip up

There are so many things in our lives that try to trip us up but it is in the very pursuit of these things based upon the power and promises of God that will keep us!

Jude 24

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,

I tell my students often that our Christian walk is like running up a slide with socks on. There is no coasting in the same spot. As we stop forward progression we immediately start backsliding.

ABUNDANT ENTRANCE *(read v.11)*

As the end result, Peter reminds them of the abundant entrance that is awaiting them.

This is a borrowed picture of heroes from the Olympic games coming back home and were welcomed in an awesome way. They were not just brought through the normal gate but rather there was a special one constructed for those exact occasions. It is also a picture of those who were victorious at war being welcomed home by those of their nation.

Oh, what will it be like to be greeted in heaven by the very Lord who we love and serve!

To hear those words of, *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

According to **1 Corinthians 3**, there will be different kinds of entries in heaven. For some, their whole lives will be burned up and they will suffer loss, yet they themselves will be saved "yet so as through fire".

Captain Jack Sparrow vs. A Successful Fleet

One day, faith will be done away with.

1 Peter 1:8-9

⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Jesus told the disciples that they should rejoice not in what they have done for him but in the fact that their names are written in heaven.

Is your name written in heaven? Have you made your call and election sure? Have you RSVP'd?

Scripture tells us to examine ourselves whether we are in the faith.

WAKE UP MY FRIENDS. Salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

Heaven is a real place. Eternity is forever.

God's call extends to you today. His grace appears to all men. Will you respond?

So Peter's reminder is still with us to this day. Has it stirred us up? Will we give all diligence to add to our faith? Will we be even more diligent to make our call and election sure by living for Him? I pray that we can have Paul's heart tonight.....

1 Corinthians 15:10

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me.*

LET US PRAY