

# 2 PETER

E V E R Y E F F O R T

## 2 PETER / MAKE EVERY EFFORT

The Apostle Peter, knowing the end of his life is near as he faces his execution, writes with fervor to encourage the church to persevere in the midst of persecution and to walk as faithful followers of Jesus in the midst of exile. He wants them to know that, even as he and the other original apostles leave this world, God has given the church all that they need to live Godly lives in the midst of a world that is pushing them to the margins. We face the same kind of exile today, even if it doesn't look exactly the same. Peter's words hit home for us as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus in the midst of a hostile and opposing culture.

### Part 1: Every Effort to Know the Spirit

Read the text: 1 Peter 1:1-4

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may

become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Peter, concerned for the future of the church as he sees his death coming, writes to tell them that they have all they need through the Spirit to help them walk faithfully in the midst of an opposing and hostile culture. Likewise, we live in the midst of exile as well; what David Kinnaman calls “Digital Babylon.” Peter’s letter will help us be spiritually-formed disciples of Jesus instead of digitally-formed to look like more like our world. Here, Peter starts his letter with two foundational truths we need for this kind of formation. First, we need a longing to truly know God at a deep level; a divine clarity about the ways and character of God (vs. 2-3). Second, we need to remember and trust God’s promises to us (vs. 4).

### **Discussion Questions:**

*These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.*

1. How does living in “digital Babylon” (i.e.- living as a follower of Jesus and exile in a post-Christian digitally-formed culture) tangibly shape you? How are you sometimes formed more by our culture than by the way of Jesus? Be specific.
2. Are you happy with how your spiritual formation practices are currently going? Are they able to compete with the other ways you’re being formed, digitally and otherwise, by our world?
3. Pastor Eddie said, “Spiritual formation requires a longing to know God at a deep level.” What kind of knowledge of God does Peter have in mind? How is that different than just having information about God? Do you think you’ve

experienced this kind of knowledge of God? Do you have a longing for this? How does Peter say this kind of knowledge comes to us?

4. Pastor Eddie also shared that spiritual formation requires remembering God's promises. Yet, so often we are prone to distrust and forget God's promises. This happens for many reasons: 1) We don't think God really cares about us, 2) We don't know if God is really able to help, 3) We think we can take care of ourselves, 4) We worry God will bring something too hard into our lives. Why do you sometimes distrust God's promises? Which of these resonate with you? Or, are there other reasons that you can share?