

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

1 and 2 Peter
**Jesus Christ,
Precious Cornerstone of Our Faith**
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August 19, 2020

F - L - I - G - H - T

F – The author of 1 & 2 Peter is identified as the apostle Peter in the first verses of each book. Peter was a disciple of Jesus, one of Jesus’ closest friends, and “a witness of the sufferings of Christ” (1 Peter 5:1). He spent three years walking with Jesus, learning from him and witnessing all that he did during his time on earth.

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F – First Peter was written sometime around AD 64, a time of increased persecution for the church. Peter likely wrote 2 Peter shortly before he was martyred around AD 66, under the reign of Caesar Nero.

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L – First Peter is essentially a handbook of conduct for Christ’s ambassadors to a hostile world. Knowing that the persecution against believers would only continue, Peter carefully prescribed godly guidelines for believers to follow so they could bring honor to the One they represented.

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L – In 2 Peter, the apostle gave the church both a stern warning and a soothing reminder. Seeing that false teachers were beginning to infiltrate Christian assemblies, and knowing that the church faced immediate danger, Peter wanted believers to grow in their faith so they could detect, combat, and withstand the spreading apostasy.

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I – God’s Plan Includes Security (1:1-12)
God’s Plan Includes Surrender (1:13-2:10)
God’s Plan Includes Submission (2:11-3:7)
God’s Plan Includes Suffering (3:8-4:19)
God’s Plan Includes Service (5)

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- I – Faithful Progress in the Truth (1)
- False Prophets Against the Truth (2)
- Future Predictions of the Truth (3)

(2 Peter)

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- G – As a Christian, you follow the God whom the world despises. You’ve had an enormous spiritual bull’s-eye on your back ever since you accepted Christ as your Savior. Jesus promised his disciples they would have enemies simply because they were his friends (John 15:18-21). You defected from the kingdom of darkness, and when you leave the enemy’s camp, he will do all he can to wreck you.

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- G – But remember: God is sovereign and in control, and you are under his protection. You’re in his family now, and there are so many wonderful benefits that come with that privilege. A rather unexpected blessing is that, when God allows you to suffer, he uses it for good. As Peter said, *“If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter”* (1 Peter 4:16).

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- H – Peter’s original name was Simon (Heb. *Shimōn*), a common Jewish name, and his father was a Jew named John (Matt. 16:17; Heb. *Yōchanan*). Peter grew up in the town of Bethsaida on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, then later moved to Capernaum. He first heard about Jesus from his brother, Andrew (Greek *Andrēas*), around the year AD 27 (John 1:40-42).

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- H – After that, he became one of Jesus’ 12 core disciples. Jesus was the one who gave him the name Peter (Greek *Petros*, Aramaic *Kēfa*), which means “rock.” Peter was privy to some of the most glorious moments of Jesus’ life, such as when Jesus showed his divine nature at the transfiguration around AD 29 (Matt. 17:1-8).

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- H – During Jesus’ trial, Peter, in his moment of weakness, denied Christ. But after the resurrection, Jesus restored Peter, paving the way for him to become a leader in the early church known for giving powerful sermons and doing mighty works (Acts 3-8). Around AD 40, Peter began his ministry among the Gentiles, and in AD 50, he was involved with the church council at Jerusalem. He was executed under the reign of Emperor Nero around AD 66.

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T – Peter encouraged believers to grow by learning and ingesting God’s Word: “*Desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*” (1 Peter 2:2). Your spiritual growth is directly proportional to your spiritual hunger. If you are hungry for the Word, you will read it, dig into it, learn it, apply it, and grow. Your appetite grows depending on what and how often you feed it.

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T – **Christianity works!** If we follow Peter’s advice to build on our knowledge of God and walk with him, we’ll see just how powerfully it does (2 Peter 1:5-8). Growing in the Lord isn’t some magical process; it takes effort on our part to apply what God has given us for life and godliness, and it takes his power to sustain and enable us to do so.

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T – **Defend against false teaching.** Peter gave us three different ways to determine if someone is a false teacher: the test of character (2 Peter 2:10-14), the test of creed (vv. 17-18), and the test of converts (vv. 19-22). You can determine a person’s legitimacy in the Lord by how he walks and by the fruit he produces; don’t be fooled by outward appearances.

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- **Character:** Do you see the fruit of the Spirit in the person’s character?
- **Creed:** What do they say about Jesus? Is the gate they preach a narrow one as Jesus said it must be or have they broadened it, departing from historic Christian truth?
- **Converts:** Look at the people they influence. What do you see in terms of their holiness and joy? Have they become harsh and legalistic, loose and self-centered?

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