

Women's Bible Study

2Peter 1:12-14

May 1st, 2024 Sharyn Balogh

2Peter 1:12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you.

Take a moment and try to hear the Apostle's pleading to fellow believers. **Therefore.** *Because this is so important, or in consequence to what was just written – that you be diligent in practicing your faith so that you will not stumble; so that you will have assurance of your eternal future – a reminder is necessary.*

Notice. Peter is expressing a heartfelt desire for those he dearly loves. He wants them to grasp the importance of their faith because he is convinced of its precious value. *Adam Clarke's Commentary* offers this reasoning, "He plainly saw that there was no way of entering into eternal life but that which he described from the 5th to the 10th verse; {2Peter 1:5-10} and although they knew and were established in the present truth, yet he saw it necessary to bring these things frequently to their recollection".

When you know something really important, something that has not only the potential but the promise to change someone's life, what do you do with the information? Wouldn't it be marvelous to be described as someone who always talks about God?

Consider if you knew your death was imminent; you would probably feel the need to share with those you love the most, the things which you had learned which would guarantee their success. Perhaps this is the Apostle's mindset.

I have been writing to each of my grandchildren since the day I knew they were expected. In these short letters I include current things they have done, what's happening in their family, and the qualities I see developing in them. But the most prevalent thread through all these pages is the importance of their heart to follow Jesus and the reminder to trust in Him for all things. Why? Because I know they will encounter rough terrain and I am convinced He is the only One who will guide them in righteousness here on earth and secure them a place in His eternal kingdom.

Think of the importance of holding one another accountable, of encouraging one another to continue growing in faith, and of remaining steadfast even through trials. We do these things because we care about one another's eternal future. It's the message of 'keep on keeping on' towards the final goal. When we neglect fellowship it is much more difficult to invest in one another through encouragement and God's word. 'Keeping to ourselves' denies us opportunities to serve others and makes it difficult for others to serve us.

Peter's words read, ***I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them.*** The *KJV* translation reads, ***I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them.*** It is clear that this message is incredibly important! He will not, cannot, and in no way, be careless or make light of this truth. Even when he is not with them, his letter will cause them to remember. Peter will be diligent to keep on reminding ...

If we look back to **2Peter 2:1-2**, we read of the imposing corruption of false teaching. It was necessary for these believers to hear the truth over and over again so that it became imbedded in their hearts; so that they would recognize false information. This same reminder is also vitally important for us today. Consider. How would we know if an apple was bad if all we ever saw were bad apples – we would expect that all apples were bruised, that it was normal, and we would accept this as okay.

2Peter 2:1-2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

2Peter 1:15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

Perhaps you had a parent who felt the need to constantly remind you of those things that were important. In your youth, you may have thought or said the words, 'okay, you have already told me', or 'you always say the same thing'.

Why do you think information is repeated?

"1. We need to be put in mind of what we already know to prevent our forgetting it, and to improve our knowledge, and reduce all to practice.

2. *We must be established in the belief of the truth, that we may not be shaken by every wind of doctrine, and especially in that which is the present truth, the truth more peculiarly necessary for us to know in our day, that which belongs to our peace, and which is more especially opposed in our time. The great doctrines of the gospel, that Jesus is the Christ, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, that those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved, and all that believe in God must be careful to maintain good works--these are truths the apostles insisted on in their day; these are faithful sayings, and worthy of all acceptance in every age of the Christian church.”*
(excerpt from Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible).

The Apostle’s Paul and John both deemed it necessary to keep on reminding the early Christians of the importance of being diligent to live out their faith.

Romans 15:14-5 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another. ***But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again,*** because of the grace that was given me from God,

1John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, ***but because you do know it,*** and because no lie is of the truth.

Practicing Christianity will not assure your salvation; lots of individuals do all sorts of good things in the name of calling themselves a Christian. Talking about God with no evidence of His regeneration in your life is merely words spoken. However, ***the witness in your life of following God’s truths will prove the authenticity of your salvation and assure certainty of your eternal home.***

I have a wonderful white peach tree in my yard. Each year I have the enjoyment of picking dozens of peaches to eat and cook with and preserve. Every now and then, I will peel the perfect fuzzy skin off one of them and find myself extremely disappointed as I see that the inside has been invaded by a



critter. Your outside may look beautiful, however, what is in your heart? Will your faith prove itself genuine with a closer look or is it just a pretty cover?

Imagine the peace, through difficult trials, which is yours from knowing for certain that you are saved and held in Jesus' hands. I have often thought that I really do not know how people get through some challenges without knowing God's strength and having an eternal purpose. Before I was saved, my answer to difficult challenges was to run, to hide, to give up; I even made a weak attempt at suicide. This is how the world reacts to hard circumstances.



James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

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

Many of you may be familiar with the tune and words of a song by Frank Sinatra, titled *Love and Marriage* –

 *Love and marriage, love and marriage,
Go together like a horse and carriage,
This, I tell you brother,
You can't have one without the other.* 

Let's give this tune different lyrics –

 Faith and good works, works from true faith,
Are a result of God's saving grace,
One without the other,
Will only prove a flimsy cover. 

Think about this question for a moment: ***Do your words, thoughts, and actions correspond to your claim of being a Christ-follower?***

“Even the truths we know, we need to be often reminded of, and urged to show their influence on our conduct”, Haweis.

So often I forget to use the information I have. Consider the number of times you think to yourself, *‘Oh that’s right, now I remember’*. The Apostle Peter writes to the church that they **have been established in the truth which is present** within them. The information for them to remember and follow is not new. However, it needs to be protected and practiced, refined, and maturing.

I am a pianist and have been playing the piano since I was ten years old. Even though I know how to play this instrument and how to read music, I practice. The more time I invest in refining this skill, the more adept I become at playing – I am then able to read music more quickly and apply what I understand. There is always room for improvement; I am always learning. Practicing not only helps me to improve in my reaction time but also helps me recall the skills I have already learned and develop new skills. When I don’t play for a while, I lose my sharpness. When I was in school I practiced five hours each day and was able to perform pieces that now I wouldn’t be able to even begin to play because I haven’t continued to develop the skills I had which takes time, effort, and dedication.

We can apply this same concept to our faith. You may have been saved for several decades. Unless you invest in deepening your faith by reading, studying, and applying God’s word, you will become sluggish in your desire and commitment in following God. It will become easy to ‘forget’ the importance of fellowship and encouragement; it will become easy to develop a habit of not going to church or being involved. It will become easy to think of excuses to not attend a service, to treat the practice of your faith as optional. It doesn’t matter how long you have been a Christian, if you do not practice what you know to be true, you will not mature, you will not grow.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church members, this was one of his concerns. He could not help them to mature in their faith by teaching them more because they had been lax to embrace and remember what they had already learned. Think of a math class: it is impossible to move on to

greater skill and understanding if you don't grasp and understand the basics. Each step is built upon understanding and applying what you have already learned.

1Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ***But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.***

We have a heartfelt plea from Peter to his Christian cohorts to live in the knowledge of what they already knew. This is so much more than sharing the words of your faith; it is living a life of faith.

Does your faith touch every area of your life?

Does it affect decisions of where you spend resources of time and money?

Does it monitor what you read, what you watch, what you listen to, what you think of? What do you fill your mind with?

Are you practicing your faith by your words and works?

Do you check your words, your remarks, your jokes?

Are your words shared and works done in hopes that others will notice you or to increase your own importance, or do they point towards God's glory?

When we strive to grow in Truth and live according to God's word, He will richly supply us with His grace and strength and whatever is needed to persevere in a way which glorifies His name. This won't happen just by hanging

around the ‘right’ people or by calling ourselves a Christian; it will happen through diligence, practice, and relying upon the Holy Spirit within us.

Consider. Most of us have had science instruction as part of our education. Typically, a lab class is adjoined to the study of science. Think why this is necessary and what happens in a lab class. You study information and theories, then you are challenged to put this information to work. You ‘test’ what you have learned and as you practice you have a clearer understanding of the instruction you received.

God has written detailed instruction for us. He has given His Holy Spirit as a Teacher. He determines our path and allows challenges in our lives to cause understanding of our dependence on Him to grow. As we trust Him more, the words ‘*walking by faith*’ become more real. When we look back, we can see His work in our life, how He has protected and directed us. Then we are able to look at the present with confidence that God will continue to be faithful. Our trust and dependence need to be solely in Him, established in His Truths.