

# THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PETER

TO THE CHURCH OF THE DIASPORA OR DISPERSION THROUGHOUT  
THE FIRST CENTURY ROMAN WORLD

## 2-PETER CHAPTER 1:12-21

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **“Where Is Your Faith?” – Part 3**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

### **Election, Salvation, Endurance, Christianity, Discipleship**

2 Peter 1:12-21

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. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

### **Where Is Your Faith?**

1.) Your faith is grounded in the truth

vs. 12-15

1a.) It is not in anything new

vs. 12-13

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

1b.) It is not in any man

vs. 14

14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

As time winds down and we begin to realize the brevity of life, We begin to slow down and think and reflect upon the lives that we have lived - - to this moment, and when we do pause, we're faced with the real issues of life, which I guarantee you will greatly affect our priorities!

Proverbs 4:23-27

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead (look long – to the terminus), and your eyelids look right before (look close - where your foot is about to land) you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

**What did I live for in this life?**

**Q:** How have I influenced my spouse and others toward God?

**Q:** Has my life been used by God?

**Q:** How will it go for me on the Day of Judgement as a Christian?

John 8:32

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

The Bible Assumes That There Are Absolutes.

The Bible Makes Absolute Claims.

**A:** The claim that God Himself exists.

**A:** That Truth is true, and it is Immutable.

**A:** That Facts are the things that Give Testimony to the Truth.

3 John 1:4

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

**Where Is Your Faith?**

So we move from “your faith being grounded in the truth” to...

And so here comes the reason why it's grounded in the truth...

## Where Is Your Faith?

2.) Your faith is founded upon the facts

vs. 16-18

### The Objective - Subjective Reality of Christianity

The **Facts** (what is objective reality) is what dictates or interprets our **Experience** (our subjective reality)

### Our World of Non-Thinkers

“because I had a feeling on such and such a day, I have thus determined that based on that experience – this is what I believe. This is now “my truth.”

*Source: Dictionary.com*

A fact is something **known** to exist or to have happened: Space travel is now a **fact**. A truth **known** by actual experience or observation; something **known** to be true: Scientists gather **facts** about plant growth. A fact is something said to be true or supposed to have happened: Example, The **facts** given by the witness are highly questionable.

### The Bible Knows Nothing of Such Instability

**Acts 1:1-3**

The former account I (Dr. Luke) made, O Theophilus, of **all** that Jesus began both to **do** and **teach**, 2 until the day in which He was **taken up**, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also **presented Himself alive** after His suffering by **many infallible proofs**,

### Who cares and why should I care - why is this such a big deal?

A **factual event which afforded a true** experience for **Peter, James and John**. Their factual experience **transformed their lives** and has CONTINUED TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO THIS DAY – **but why?**

### The Following Arguments focus on at least

{3} human eyewitness accounts, {1} sworn testimony of – the voice that came out of Heaven and {3} Historical documents exist to this day regarding **1** single fact-claim – that The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ took place!

**Because in this transfiguration event / account of Jesus,**  
Christ is the genesis of the greatest hope that you could ever know for life.

## Your Faith Is Founded Upon The Facts

2a.) It is not founded upon some story

vs. 16

### Verse 16a

**16** For **we** did not **follow cunningly devised fables {when} we** made known to you the **power** and **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ but were **eyewitnesses** of His **majesty**.

Every Ancient culture(s) and religion(s) are replete with their gods, demigods and mythological heroes – their own Avengers and the like...

Iron Man, Wolverine, Spider-Man, Captain America, Thor, Wonder Woman, Batman, X-Men, Super-Man, **Big Hero 6**  
( o’ don’t leave anyone’s super hero out or there will be wrath to pay)

**follow** grk: exakoloutheo; **(-)** to go down a path or course or scheme. **(-)** to role-play or **(-)** to story-play a plot or a script. **(-)** to play an acting role in production.

**cunningly devised:** grk sophizo; a well-crafted tale, a cleverly concocted plot. A grand scheme.

**“I can’t believe in the Bible” you say.**

But the truth is, you refuse to believe in the Bible.

( once someone has decided to turn their back away from God – I have seen those people descend down into the most ignorant, unreasonable and even stupid beliefs )

**Fables:** grk muthos; or myth. The telling of a tale, a story mixed with half-truths and imagination, unfounded legends, - - subjective accounts

### At the preaching of the Gospel, The Greeks were not so Impressed

#### Acts 17:19

And they (Athenians) took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “*May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.*” 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to **tell** or to **hear** some **new thing**.

**They had become accustomed to fake news and photo-shopped images.**

Tabloids / Blog Posts / and Things Gone Viral

We Have The Gospel Accounts Waiting for You to Examine.

**1 Timothy 1:4**

Do not give heed to fables and endless genealogies,  
which cause disputes rather than godly edification

**1 Timothy 4:1**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and **doctrines** of demons (atmospheric delusions / thought twisting), 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

The Bible Has Never Been Known to be Apologetic Nor Has The Bible Ever Been Known To Run From a Challenge.

**1 Timothy 6:20 KJV**

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:  
**(opposition arguments labeled as science)**

**2 Timothy 4:3-4**

For the time **will come** (it's here) when people will not **endure** (put up with) **sound** (foundational) doctrine, but according to their **own desires**, (the way they want it to be) because they have **itching** (burning) ears, they will **heap up** (cannot stay under one) for themselves teachers; 4 and they will **turn** their ears away (become bored) from the truth, and be **turned aside** to **fables**.  
(demonically sourced experiences)

“we did not follow cunningly devised fables”

Verse 16b

**fables {when} we made known** to you the **power** and **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ but were **eyewitnesses** of His **majesty**.

**When** (time stamp statement) **we made known**

(observable, tangible, reality) **to YOU** (personally)

Did you know that this is a fact? That wherever the Gospel is preached – The power is in effect and power follows. Change happens and people's minds are converted.

We hear allot today about power. There's the talk of solar power and wind power. There are the elementary powers like hydrogen and atomic power – it's a big topic and it should be because man is terrified about being powerless.

**Power:** grk dunamis; an explosive power. A non-human miraculous power; **unnatural** ability. **Unnatural** meaning; **unnatural** reason.

Billy Graham talks of a man who interrupted him at a crusade on one of our university campuses. He claimed to be an atheist and said to Billy Graham, "I can prove that God doesn't exist and here's how - - If God is God, I'm going to give Him five minutes to strike me dead." In a moment of divine wisdom downloaded from the cloud, Billy Graham said "Young man, Do you think you can exhaust the patience of God in five minutes?"

Where Is Your Faith?

## Your Faith Is Founded Upon The Facts

2b.) It is not founded upon some opinion

vs. 17

### Verse 17

17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when **such a voice** came to Him from the **Excellent Glory**:

**"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

### Matthew 17:1-8

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses (Moses represents the law) and Elijah (Elijah represents the prophets) appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." :5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." 8 When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw **no one but Jesus only.**

**Excellent:** grk megaloprepes; The **Majestic**. The Ultimate expression of **Surpassing**

**Glory:** grk doxa – meaning by "the opinion of (glory), or by the estimation (glory) of Jesus Christ – Him being pronounced to be worthy of (1) praise, (2) honor, (3) glory, (4) brilliance, (5) brightness. It carries with it the embodiment of royalty that is on display.

**This should not in any way surprise the bible reading Christian.**

Throughout the Old Testament there is what is called at Theophany or Christophany. Its Theological meaning is that of a Material manifestation, a Physical appearance of God on earth in human form.

**Genesis 3:8**

And they **heard the sound of the LORD God walking** in the garden in the cool (perfection) of the day,

**Genesis 18:1**

Then **the LORD appeared** to Abram by the terebinth (oak) trees of Mamre, as Moses was sitting in the tent door...

**Joshua 5:13-6:2**

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" :14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua **fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him**, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" :15 Then the Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. 6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "Behold! I have given Jericho into your hand

**Revelation 1:17-18**

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

**Revelation 2:8**

These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

**Matthew 24:29-30**

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**Peter, James and John saw the Immutable Glory of God  
"shine-forth" from or out of Jesus Christ Himself.**

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person,

**Colossians 1:12-17**

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 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. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

**John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Where Is Your Faith?**

**Your Faith Is Founded Upon The Facts**

2c.) It is not founded upon some backwater tale

vs. 18

**Verse 18**

**18** And **we heard** this voice which came **from heaven** when **we were with Him** on the holy mountain.

**John 18:19-20**

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. :20 Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. 21 Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

**Jesus In The Courtroom of Public Opinion  
What of the Local Power's accounting of Jesus Christ?**



John 19:4

Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

## What of the Roman Empire's accounting of Jesus Christ?

**Acts 26:20-28**

I have declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." :24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" :25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe." :28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "***You almost persuade me to become a Christian.***"

## What of the Eyewitnesses accounting of Jesus Christ?

**1 John 1:1-4**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

# What of the 12+1 Apostles accounting of Jesus Christ?

(source: Foxe's Book of Martyrs)

Andrew – crucified // Bartholomew - beaten then crucified  
James, son of Alphaeus - stoned to death  
James, son of Zebedee – beheaded  
John - exiled to Patmos for his faith; died of old age  
Judas (not Iscariot) – stoned to death // Matthew – speared to death  
Peter – crucified upside down // Philip – crucified  
Simon – crucified // Thomas – speared to death  
Matthias – stoned to death // ( the 13th ) Paul - beheaded  
But the 1<sup>st.</sup> was John the Baptist followed by the 1<sup>st.</sup> disciple Stephan,  
who was stoned to death.

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*End of Study*

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