

Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter
Wk #43: Stirring It Up To Remember

2 Peter 3:1-2 NKJV

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

It is imperative at this point in our study of 2 Peter that we review what we have studied together.

A reminder of the journey of Peter the apostle.

Resource online for further info on Simon Peter: <https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Peter.html>

Peter was involved in a successful fishing business. He appears to be a natural leader. He appears to be a passionate man who was bold and often brash in his communication. He had incredible strengths and glaring weaknesses. Simon Peter (or Cephas) was one of the three that was closest to Jesus. He is an example for all of us as his life is an authentic representation of a flawed human being learning to follow Jesus of Nazareth.

Many scholars believe that Peter wrote these letters 2-3 years before he was killed by Nero. Peter was probably one of the oldest of the apostles when we followed Jesus during the 3 years of ministry. He could have been in his late fifties or early sixties when he penned these two epistles. At least thirty plus years had passed since our Lord Jesus was crucified and ascended to heaven.

Peter learned so many incredible lessons throughout his journey following Jesus.

2 Peter 1

Peter is proclaiming the privilege of becoming a partaker of God's divine nature. He outlines godly characteristics that will create a growing, developing, and productive life of faith through our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter tells his readers that if we are diligent then we will never stumble. Life altering truths are being shared by a man who knows both sides of life. Peter is so committed to reinforcing these truths that he states that he will keep saying the same things until he dies then make arrangements to have the same truths proclaimed after his departure from this world to the next.

2 Peter 2

Peter follows chapter 1 by telling his readers that because these truths are so important and eternal that the forces of evil will have false teachers working to distort and pervert this powerful message. False teachers and false influencers will make every effort to distract and draw you away from this incredibly supernatural existence that he explained in the first chapter. Peter describes the attitudes and motivating factors of these false teachers/influencers. Their goal is to pervert the power of the good news of Jesus. We cannot become complacent but be diligent in pursuing the pure presence of God.

Greek meaning of the phrase, “I stir up” **διεγείρω** diegeirō; to wake up, awaken, arouse (from sleep); of the sea, which begins to be agitated, to rise, Metaphorically, to arouse the mind; stir up, render active:

“Pure minds” in the original language refers to pure, unsullied, sincere mind

John 15:3 ESV *Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*

I want to address the reality that most of us don’t feel like we have clean, pure minds. I want to remind you that if you have believed in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then God’s Holy Spirit lives in you. You have the words of Christ in you because of your faith. There is a pure and clean part of your mind. It is in there and we must learn to allow that pure, clean mind to grow within us.

“Reminding or remembrance” by way of reminder.

How do you remember important things? Ask for input.....

Quick insights for remembering in general but these also apply to spiritual things.

- Focus on what you want to remember

- Limit your distractions by avoiding clutter both mentally and physically

- Develop better habits through greater awareness

- Write things down and personalize with notes or doodling

- Read and repeat things for repetition

Peter is making it very clear about why he is sharing his heart with this group of dispersed believers in the far northern region (show map) Notice the distance from Jerusalem.



Peter is being very intentional to proclaim the power available for daily living that is proclaimed by the prophets of old as well as the apostles of the new covenant. We have supernatural potential by faith through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This potential is made available by grace from Father God. He allows us to experience His divine nature. God loves us and wants greater things for us but the process is an inside out approach of spiritual transformation that affects every aspect of living.

We must become laser focused and learn to narrow our field of vision.

We must work to remind ourselves, be reminded, work at recalling, or to return our minds to what is really important.

We must learn to focus on the excellent things not just the thousands of things that we could potentially view.

(Use spotting scope or binoculars as a visual)

We live in world full of opportunities and potential but we live in a world that is absolutely full of distractions.

Distractions are everywhere through the advancement of technology.

Individually and collectively, we must fight the distractions and learn to stay focused on our Holy Gods.....Holy Father, Holy Son, and Holy Spirit. We must keep the truth of the Holy Scriptures in the forefront of our thinking.

We are not trying to make you comfortable and make things easy. We are trying to stir things up like the meaning of the Greek word. It is the same phrase used in 2 Peter 1:12-15 NASB (1995) 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.* ¹³ *I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,* ¹⁴ *knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.* ¹⁵ *And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.*

Hebrews 10:23-25 NLT

²³ *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.* ²⁴ *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.* ²⁵ *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

If we live like we are loved then we have hope and it is visible to others.