

Living Hope, a study of 2 Peter

Wk #47: Persevering Through Distraction & Seduction

2 Peter 3:14-18 NKJV

*<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup> and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

*<sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; <sup>18</sup> but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Let's walk through the verses together.

*<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things,*

(the hope that we have because of our expectant faith to see our Lord and Savior.)

*be diligent* (exert one's self, endeavor, forward diligence.....I am using the terms proactive persevering)

*to be found by Him in peace*, I really want to ask you to meditate on this phrase, however it is in the version that you study.

NLT "make every effort to be found living peaceful lives"

JB Phillips NT "I urge you to make certain that such a day would find you at peace with God and man,"

ESV "be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish,"

(a concept peculiar to Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort it is.....specifically in this verse; those who are assured of salvation, tranquilly await the return of Christ and the transformation of all things which will accompany that event)

*without spot and blameless*; (free from moral depravity or corruption; not soiled or tarnished)

*<sup>15</sup> and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

(the scriptures are not always easy to understand at first reading. The deeper things of God must be understood over time. Someone who has not been born of the Spirit cannot understand the heart and mind of God)

2 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God."

***17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;***

I want to use the term “seducing spirit”. This may or may not be a familiar term.

In the Bible, there are passages that refer to “seducing spirits” that can lead people astray. This term is most often used in the context of false teachings and deception. Understanding what the Bible says about seducing spirits can help us avoid being misled and stay grounded in God’s truth. A “seducing spirit” refers to any spirit or demonic influence that deceives, tempts, or leads people into false beliefs, sinful desires, or unwise choices. We see warnings about such spirits throughout Scripture, as Satan and his demons seek to turn humanity away from God. As Christians, it is vital that we are aware of their tactics and rely on the Holy Spirit to discern truth from deception.

1 Timothy 4:1-7 NIV

***The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. <sup>2</sup> Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. <sup>3</sup> They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. <sup>6</sup> If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, (believers, as part of God’s family) you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. <sup>7</sup> Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.***

***18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***

***To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.***

“Grow”:to grow, increase as in inward Christian growth

“Grace”: the protecting and helping favor of God

“Knowledge”: the knowledge of God offered through the gospel of Christ as Savior

1. We must be consistent (diligent) in pursuing Christ
2. We must realize that we have enemy forces that want to keep us from experiencing intimacy, strength, peace, and joy through the Holy Spirit
3. We must fight to grow closer to Father God (taking baby steps) through grace and experiential understanding as we learn more about His ways

**Complacency is not supposed to be a characteristic of a passionate Christ follower!!**

**May we continue to study and embrace Peter’s writings to partake of God’s divine nature through the sacrifice of His Son, Yeshua.**