

## INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

1. Author (vs. 1a)

Simon, **the ROCK**; . . . Simon, **the SERVANT**; . . . Simon, **the APOSTLE**.

2. Recipients (vs. 1b)

3. Greeting (vs. 2)

The crucial word in this verse is the word “**KNOWLEDGE**”. It is also the key word throughout 2nd Peter (sixteen times; 1:3, 8; 3:18). “*Knowledge*” in 2nd Peter refers to an *informed* and *intimate* relationship because of our new birth that moves us toward Christlikeness and committed living for Christ.

4. Peter wrote his second epistle for three reasons:

To stimulate Christian growth (chap. 1). The **2nd** reason is to resist/escape apostasy (chap. 2). The **3rd** reason is to encourage watchfulness in view of the coming “Day of the LORD” (chap. 3). **SUMMARY:** The purpose of Second Peter is to call Christians to *spiritual growth* so that they can *resist/escape apostasy* as they look forward to *the Lord’s return*!

## TO STIMULATE CHRISTIAN GROWTH (chapter 1)

1. RESOURCES for Growth are PROVIDED (1:3-4)

A. They’re found in Jesus Christ, the LIVING Word (vs. 3)

*“His divine power has given us . . . through our knowledge of him who called us.”*

B. They’re found in the WRITTEN Word (vs. 4)

*“He has given us his very great and precious promises.” Note the subject in vss. 16-21.*

2. RESOLVE to Grow is REQUIRED (1:5-7): “*Make every effort to add to your faith . . .*”

Spiritual growth in the Christian life requires strenuous involvement by the believer. Change & Growth is a “joint venture” (Bridges), a “divine-human cooperative” (Jeremiah). Peter lays out a program of moral & ethical development consisting of eight virtues – beginning with faith and concluding with love. They are facets of mature Christian character, virtues which should be found in a healthy and mature Christian life.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ for Growth are \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8-11)

A. You’ll be \_\_\_\_\_ and effective; not nearsighted and \_\_\_\_\_ (8-9)

B. You’ll make your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sure (10a)

C. You’ll never \_\_\_\_\_ (10b)

D. You’ll receive a rich \_\_\_\_\_ into our Lord & Savior’s eternal kingdom (11; 1:16-21)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ to Grow are \_\_\_\_\_ (1:12-15)

A. The image of the \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ is interesting. Compare Heb. 11:8-10, 13-16.

B. Jesus told \_\_\_\_\_ how he would \_\_\_\_\_ (see John 21:18-19).

C. Peter speaks of his departure (lit. **ἐξοδος** *éxodos*). It means “the road or way out”. It speaks of the OT exodus—the way out of physical bondage/oppression into freedom (the promised land).

D. Verse 15: “And I will make every effort to see that (after my departure) you will always remember these things.” NIV Study Bible Note: “An aim that was realized, whether intentionally or unintentionally, through the Gospel of Mark, which early tradition connected with Peter.” See 1 Pet. 5:13.

## **Transition to Second Peter 1:16-21**

In 1:10b-11, Peter introduces a topic of great importance in his letter; namely, the second coming of Christ and the “day of the Lord”. This is a major theme in Second Peter. Why? False teachers scoffed at the idea of Christ’s return and a day of moral accountability (3:1-18). They denied the promise of Christ’s coming. In the place of God’s promises, these apostates offered “cleverly invented stories” that robbed believers of this blessed hope. How can we be sure Jesus is coming and that He will estab. His kingdom on earth? Apostolic preaching about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ did not rest on “cleverly invented stories”, but on two solid foundations.

1. The foundation of the apostles’ personal \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 16-18).  
Peter was an eyewitness to an event that previewed the Second Coming. See Matt. 16:26-17:8. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:16-18, Peter wrote a summary of what he, James & John saw and heard on the Mount of Transfiguration. (1) They saw Jesus robed in “majesty”. (2) They heard God the Father’s voice.

What was the significance of the Transfiguration?

- A. It confirmed Peter’s \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus. See Matt. 16:13-16. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (see Matt. 16:16).
  - B. It was the Father’s way of \_\_\_\_\_ His Son for that terrifying ordeal of being the sacrifice for the sins of the world.
  - C. Here is a foretaste, a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son’s coming in His kingdom was granted to three of Jesus’ disciples during their normal lifetime.
2. The foundation of prophetic \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 19-21).  
Peter wrote, “And we have *the word of the prophets* made more certain.” The *word of the prophets* describes the entire scope of OT prophecies that point to the glorious future Kingdom of Jesus the Messiah. From the first good news in Gen. 3:15, to the promise of an eternal king in David’s line (2 Sam. 7:16), to the Servant that Isaiah predicted (42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12), to the dating of Daniel’s 70 weeks (Dan. 9:24-27), to Zechariah’s pierced and reigning king (Zech. 12-14); all of these OT prophecies and more point to Messiah’s coming.

Peter makes three affirmations about this prophetic word:

- A. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ word (19a).  
**NIV Study Bible Note:** “Peter’s message rests on two solid foundations: (1) The voice from God at the Transfiguration (vss. 16-18) and (2) the still more significant testimony of Scripture (vss. 19-21). An alternative, but less probable, view is that the apostles’ testimony to the transfiguration fulfills & thus confirms the Scriptures that predicted such things.” Literally (Greek word order): “And we have more sure the word of the prophets.”
- B. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ word (19b).  
Human history began in a lovely garden, but that garden today is a murky swamp (Jn. 1:4-5; 3:16-19). *Until the day dawns* – the “day” is the Day of the LORD, centered in the coming of Jesus, the Christ. He is “the bright and morning star” (Rev. 22:16).
- C. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ word (20-21).  
This is one of two important Scriptures affirming the divine inspiration of the Word of God. The other is 2 Tim. 3:16. Peter affirmed that the Scriptures were not written by men who used their own ideas and words, but by men of God who were “carried along by the Holy Spirit.” The words “they were carried along” translate one Greek verb. The same verb is used in Acts 27:15. Just as a ship is driven along by a strong wind, so God’s Spirit moved these prophets & apostles to record the very words God intended. How far does inspiration extend? To just the thoughts and concepts? NO! **Matt. 5:17-19.** Peter wanted Christians to understand the divine origin/source of the prophetic writings (OT/NT) to remind his readers that God’s predictions of Jesus’ second coming are absolutely certain.