

The Day Must Dawn

Chapter 11

New Testament Audio Lesson #83



Objective: To learn what qualities to add to our faith and to understand what will happen on the Day of the Lord



Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

—2 Peter 1:5-7

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

—2 Peter 1:19-21

But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.

—2 Peter 3:13-15a

Peter wrote his second epistle when the persecution of Christians was very intense and spreading throughout the country. Peter wanted to remind the people of what they already knew, because they would need to remember it in the coming days.

In this epistle, he wrote about spiritual growth. The world believes knowledge is virtuous, but in spiritual things, the application of knowledge is virtue, not knowledge itself. We are to add virtue or goodness to our faith first, then knowledge, and then the other things that Peter mentioned.

Peter reminded his readers of the importance of God's Word. God is the source of all Scripture. The Holy Spirit moved the prophets to write those words. Scripture brings about regeneration in our hearts. Peter says it is like the day dawning, and the Morning Star, Jesus, rises in our hearts. Christians emphasize receiving Jesus into our hearts, but this passage seems to indicate that Jesus Christ is born in us.

In chapter 2, Peter rebukes false teachers. Chapter 3 describes the Day of the Lord, one among a series of events in the Second Coming of Christ, which also includes: the Rapture of the Church, the Great Tribulation, and end-time events. The last event, the Day of the Lord, will be cataclysmic, the dissolution from intense heat of everything on earth and in the universe. Jesus Himself said that heaven and earth will pass away, and Peter describes it clearly. Although God

has already destroyed the earth once by water, some people do not believe He will destroy the earth again. Others think He is too slow. God does not want anyone to perish; He wants everyone to repent, so He gives us time to share the Gospel. While we wait, we are to live blameless lives.



1. True or False: The persecution of Christians was beginning to decrease when Peter wrote 2 Peter.
2. True or False: Peter wrote to remind the Jewish Christians of what they already knew.
3. True or False: Peter did not know he was going to die soon.
4. True or False: For Peter the most important thing to understand was prophecy.

Choose all that apply.

5. Why would Peter repeat things his readers already knew?
 - a. He thought they were ignorant.
 - b. He knew they would need to remember them as the persecution worsened.
 - c. He did not have any new messages from the Holy Spirit.
 - d. He was getting old and could not remember what he had already taught them.
6. Peter gives several ways to grow spiritually. What quality should we add first to our faith?
 - a. Knowledge
 - b. Love
 - c. Perseverance
 - d. Goodness or virtue
7. Why is knowledge the second addition instead of the first?
 - a. The application of our knowledge of Scripture makes it effective.
 - b. Perseverance is more important than knowledge or goodness.
 - c. He made a mistake in the order of the list.
 - d. Peter was an illiterate man so knowledge was not important to him.

8. If we add these things to our faith, what will happen?
 - a. We will never have any trials or troubles.
 - b. We will become known for our knowledge.
 - c. We will be fruitful and productive for Jesus.
 - d. Nothing. We will not be changed.

9. Why should we pay attention to Scripture?
 - a. The biblical authors were smart, and they wrote what they thought would be helpful for others.
 - b. The Holy Spirit moved the prophets and other biblical authors to write the words.
 - c. The apostles, who wrote most of the New Testament, were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and death, resurrection and ascension.
 - d. If we can find mistakes in the Bible, we do not have to do what it says.

10. What happens when we take scripture seriously?
 - a. Our knowledge will get us into heaven.
 - b. Others around us are impressed.
 - c. We can become leaders because we know so much.
 - d. It changes our hearts.

11. What will happen on the Day of the Lord?
 - a. The Great Tribulation will begin.
 - b. God will flood the earth again like He did in Noah's time.
 - c. Everything will be utterly destroyed.
 - d. Everyone will join hands and celebrate.

12. Why do people have a hard time believing the Day of the Lord will actually come?
 - a. They do not think God is strong enough to do what He said.
 - b. They do not think God will destroy the earth again.
 - c. That Day has not come yet, even though long ago He declared it would.
 - d. All of the above.



Christians today focus on getting nonbelievers to receive or ask Jesus into their hearts, but how does Peter say Jesus gets in your heart? Explain.

God has made it clear that Jesus is coming again. What can we do to prepare ourselves for that day? What are some specific ways you can prepare for when He comes?



Thank God for men like Peter and Paul, who gave their lives to spread the Gospel. Thank God also for the knowledge He has given you through the Word and the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you grow in goodness, which means you are applying the knowledge you already have. Ask Him to remind you, as you seek His help, that spiritual growth is a life-long process and requires patience and faithfulness.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you apply the way the context and the motivation of Peter for writing this second letter compares with the same context and motivation in the writing of Paul's second letter to Timothy? _____

2. How do you apply to your own life and your teaching ministry the additions to faith outlined by Peter? _____

3. How do you apply and teach the significance of the reality that Peter teaches that we should add virtue to our faith first, and then knowledge? _____

4. How do you apply and teach the way Peter describes the Day of the Lord as if it were a thermonuclear explosion? _____

5. How do you personally apply and then teach the way we can hasten the coming of the Day of the Lord? (Consider what the Lord said in Matthew 24 about this Gospel first being preached in all the nations.) _____

6. Explain how the amazing breakthroughs we are having through computers, cell phones and MegaVoice audio devices that I am using to get the Gospel out in 26 languages from my hospital bed may have been designed by the providence of God to hasten the Day of the Lord. _____

7. What are you personally doing to contribute to that great effort? _____
