

2 Peter 1:1-21

Inductive Discovery Lesson 13

Growing in Hope How do you measure the growth of a soul? Is it calculated in the amount of knowledge gained or years of experience? These are milestones that men record, but God measures growth in subtle, more significant ways. He counts the countless possibilities that everyday life throws across our path. Choices and challenges. Pursuits and pastimes. Delays and disappointments. In our response to the daily doings of life, character is weighed.

Peter wrote with the urgency of a man whose days were numbered. But he didn't write to say goodbye; he wrote to say *remember*. Remember all that God has done for you. Remember the truth you've been given. Remember what the future holds for you. Keep growing in the knowledge of the One who gives you hope!

Background Little is known about Peter's final years of life and ministry. Early church historians believed he concentrated his efforts on the Roman provinces addressed in his first letter, covering a vast area of cities and towns. We can't say whether Peter kept the arduous travel schedule that Paul maintained, but he invested himself—body and soul—in preaching and teaching the Word of God. At some point, it appears he settled in Rome, perhaps to work with Mark on the second gospel.

Peter wrote this second letter from Rome around 67 A.D., shortly before his death. How did Peter die? We know that Jesus told Peter the day would come when he would die as a martyr (John 21:18-19). Under the brutal reign of Nero, many Christians were tortured and killed. Peter and Paul were among the victims of Nero's unrestrained violence.

Church history records that Peter was executed by crucifixion in Rome. According to the testimony of Clement of Alexandria (an early church leader), before Peter was crucified he was forced to watch the execution of his own wife. As he saw her being led to death, Clement says, Peter called out her name and cried tender words to comfort her saying, "Remember the Lord."

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage**. (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions. Do your best to follow Peter's train of thought. Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

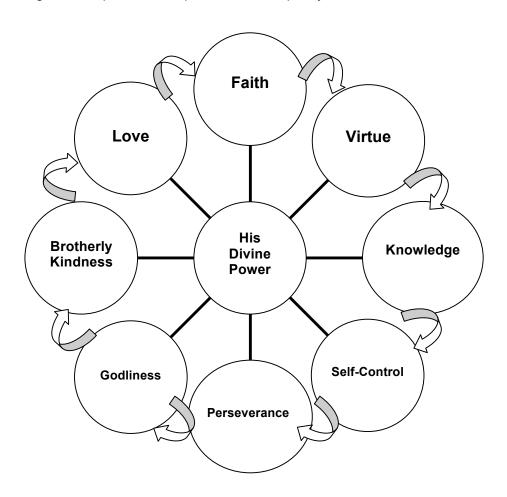
2 Peter 1:1-11	
Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

2 Peter 1:12-15	
Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:
2 Peter 1:16-21 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

2 Peter 1:16-21 (continued) Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words

Below is a diagram of the Christ-like characteristics that Peter listed. Write the definition next to each one and give one specific example of how this quality is exercised in a Christian's life.



INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to *put it into action*.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.

Lesson:	
Application:	
2 Peter 1 :12-15 Lesson:	
Application:	
2 Peter 1:16-21 Lesson:	
Application:	
Summary Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about.	
Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.	

Up close and personal

For if these things are yours and abound. you will be neither barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:8

● Memorize God's Word
Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.
⊃Meditate on God's Word
While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowl savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.
Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just <i>think and pray</i> about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.
Look up . What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)
Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?
Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?
Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

• Make God's	Word Your Prayer
examine your heart,	and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Sp, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith a e truth of God's Word.
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- Oswald Chambers -

Message	Notes:
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