

NAME:



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New Member & New Christian Orientation Booklet

II PETER 1:1-11

Week 1: Introduction / Study Tools

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Week 4: Knowledge

Week 5: Temperance (Self Control)

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Week 7: Godliness

Week 8: Brotherly Kindness

Week 9: Charity (Love)

***Week 10: Finding Your Gift
& The Vision***

Week 11: Constitution

Step-by-Step



KING JAMES VERSION

- 2Peter Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ,
1:1 to them that have obtained like precious faith with us
through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus
Christ:*
- 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the
knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*
- 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all
things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the
knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and
virtue:*
- 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and
precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers
of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption
that is in the world through lust.*
- 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith
virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*
- 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance
patience; and to patience godliness;*
- 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly
kindness charity.*
- 1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make
you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in
the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot
see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged
from his old sins.*
- 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to
make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these
things, ye shall never fall:*

2 Peter 1: 1-11 New Message Bible

1-2, Simon Peter, am a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. I write this to you whose experience with God is as life-changing as ours, all due to our God's straight dealing and the intervention of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to you many times over as you deepen in your experience with God and Jesus, our Master. Don't Put It Off

3-4 Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you—your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust.

5-9 So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.

10-11 So, friends, confirm God's invitation to you, his choice of you. Don't put it off; do it now. Do this, and you'll have your life on a firm footing, the streets paved and the way wide open into the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Why Did I Choose To Become A Member Of Great Hope?

What Should I Expect From My Church?

Nurture
Fellowship
Opportunity For Growth
Equal Treatment
Biblical Discipline & Accountability
Biblical Leadership
Truth

What Is Expected of Me?

T.A.P. INTO YOUR PURPOSE

T = TITHE Leviticus 27:32 Malachi 3:8-10
A = ATTEND Hebrews 10:24-25

P = PARTICIPATE Nehemiah 4:6



MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

I AM LOVED AND ACCEPTED Ephesians 1:6

I AM A NEW PERSON 2 Corinthians 5:17

I AM CREATED BY GOD Psalms 139:18

I AM SUSTAINED BY GOD Acts 17:28

I AM JUSTIFIED BY GOD Romans 5:1

I AM DEFINED BY GOD 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

I AM DEFENDED BY GOD Matthew 18:6

IT ALL STARTS WITH FAITH

II Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith

You are here because you have given your life to Christ. The most basic step in becoming a Christian is to believe that Jesus died for your sins. Believe means to have Faith.

Romans 10:9-10 (New Living Translation) ⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

You are saved because you have faith that Jesus is the son of God. Right now, you do not understand everything about God; nobody does, so your starting point is your faith.

Hebrews 11:6 ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Faith in Christ Jesus is the foundation for your Growth. Your Christian walk will be a step-by-step journey. Mistakes will be made. You being set apart for God is a life long journey.

Don't be dismayed because of what you feel you lack or don't understand right now remember it all starts with Faith. The other things will come in time.

Hebrews 11:1-3

¹ Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.

³ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

All of the great men and women that God used started out with only their faith in God. Faith is trust. If you trust God he will never let you down. Read your Bible and believe what you read. The Bible is God's letter to you as a Christian and it can only be understood by faith.

By faith you can see where you are headed as opposed to where you have been. By faith you can finally see yourself for who God intended you to be, not just for what you settled for. Your life starts now.

VIRTUE / MORAL EXCELLENCE

11 Peter 1:5 add to your faith virtue

It is important to understand that no one is saved by good works.

“Ephesians 2:9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it (New Living Translation)”.

No matter how many good deeds you do, unless you accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior through faith you can not be saved. You are not saved by good works, you are saved to works. That is what virtue is all about. Letting go of deeds in your life that God is not pleased with and adding into your life the things that he is pleased with.

Now that you have accepted God, there are still a lot of things that you have in your life that God wants you to remove.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us (New Living Translation).

When you gave your life to Christ you started a process of being set apart for God (sanctification). This does not happen over night. It is a life time process. Just because you are not perfect does not mean you lose your salvation. If you really meant it when you gave your life to Christ you are and will always be saved even though you are going to make mistakes.

John 10:28 (New Living Translation) ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me,

God wants you to start to give up those things in your life that you know are not right because as a Christian you want be able to be comfortable doing some of the things that you had been doing. You don't lose your salvation you just feel terrible because the spirit of God is convicting you from within.

Ephesians 4:30 (New Living Translation) ³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own,^[a] guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation

Now that you have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ, add to that a virtuous life. Began to lay aside those things that God is not pleased with in your life. You will struggle, we all do, but you can do it.

Romans 12:2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is (New Living Translation).

KNOWLEDGE

As you grow in God he will begin to open your eyes to his truth. To be a strong Christian you must seek out the knowledge of God. The more you know about God the more confident you will feel about your relationship with him.

There are two things that will help you be fruitful in your relationship with Christ, Prayer and reading your Bible. Like any good your relationship, your relationship with God is built on good communication and knowing one another. When we pray, we talk to God in our own way.

Never try to pray like someone else because that is how we communicate with God and it's personal between you and him.

The other part of the relationship is knowledge of each other. God knows everything there is to know about you. He even knows the number of the hairs on your head

Luke 12:7 (New Living Translation) ⁷ And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

God's knowledge (the Bible) will teach you how to become what God wants you to be. There are over thirty-thousand promises in the word of God. You must seek this knowledge to know what God has promised you.

Don't serve God ignorantly. Never take anybody's word on what the Bible says, read it for your self. Many people fall back on God because they took what somebody else told them the Bible said, instead of reading it for themselves.

Another source of learning more about God is by attending Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible study as often as possible. If you only come on Sunday, you are missing most of what you should be learning. Read your Bible regularly. Remember is not how many pages you read at one time, it is how much understanding you get out of what you read. If you find something that you don't understand ask your Pastor. The more you learn about God, the more you will want to know. Ask God to give you a thirst for knowledge of him.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

If you were to go into your kitchen and find a glass casserole dish, you would find written in the glass the word "tempered". This means that the dish has been specially conditioned to take the heat. Temperance means the same thing for a Christian. Now that you are a Christian you are going to have to practice self control. You can not control others but you can control yourself.

Temptation is going to come, Temptation to turn back on God, Temptation to explode in anger, sexual temptation, financial temptation and more. Jesus himself endured temptation but he used self control.

Hebrews 4:14-15

¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Temperance is self control. A person who masters his or her desires that is not pleasing to God. We got ourselves in a lot of trouble down through the years because we told ourselves "If it feels good, do it". We here so many people say "follow your heart". But God says;

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Our emotions and what feels right can be the biggest test of our self control. We must control ourselves in the heat of the moment. Self control means having something in your power to do but choosing not to do it. You do not have to prove anything to anyone.

Matthew 4:3-4 (New Living Translation) ³ During that time the devil^[a] came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Temperance is how you conduct yourself in unpleasant situations. That is when your test of faith is going to come. Start praying to God to help you have self control in your life. He will help you to control your self no matter what you are facing.

1Corinthians 10:13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

PATIENCE

Hebrews 12:1-2 (New Living Translation) ¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.^[a] Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Patience is the ability to wait or endure in trying circumstance. Patience is one of the hardest steps to master because we don't like to wait. Its hard to wait when you don't know why you have to wait.

Psalm 27:13-14

¹³ Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living.¹⁴ Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

Isaiah 40:31 (New Living Translation) ³¹ But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Proverbs 29:20 ²⁰ There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.

The more you practice patience the stronger you will become.

James 1:2-8 ² Dear brothers and sisters,^[a] when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. ⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

GODLINESS

Godliness means God-likeness. The process where we begin to think and act the way God would. You probably have seen the initials W.W.J.D. on T-shirts or posters or bracelets. It stands for "What Would Jesus Do". That's what Godliness is, doing what Jesus would do. In fact, that is what the word Christians mean, Those who are like Christ.

Philippians 2:3-5 ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Romans 12 ¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

What are areas in your life where you could be more like Christ ?

Brotherly Kindness

We are a family, God's family. What the family does, it does together.

Genesis 4:9 ⁹ *Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"*

Brotherly kindness is Brotherly Love. We have an obligation to love our Christian family.

Galatians 6:9-10 ⁹ *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.* ¹⁰ *Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.*

How should I treat my Christian family?

Matthew 7:12

¹² ***"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.***

Name one problem that can't be solved if people follow this rule?

What are some things that stop you from following this rule?

How can you began from this point forward to apply this to your life?

CHARITY (Love)

Our final chapter in this booklet is about charity. In the Bible charity means love. Charity comes from the Greek work "*Agape*" which means Godlike love.

1 John 4:16 ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

God like love means unconditional love, a love that is not based on what a person can get from you, or with being physically touched or giving away your body. Agape love means acceptance. To be loved inspite of all my hang ups. Godlike Love believes everyone has a soul that is worth saving. It loves us through our mistakes and short comings because it sees what we can be in God. Do not confuse this with love between opposite sex. Sometimes a person is not right for you and you don't need to be with them especialy if you are in a ungodly relationship (Sexual relationship when you are not married).

Charity or Agape Love means being constant. Agape or Godlike Love does not change up on you because you can't give back anything.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity (Love) among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Everybody is looking for this kind of love. The problem is, they are looking for it in all the wrong places. Not only does God give us this kind of love but he gives us the ability to give it to other people.

1John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Let Godly love be in you and grow. It will not only show you how God loves you unconditionally but will help you love unconditionally. Not matter what we accomplish in life, if we don't exercise Godly love we have not accomplished anything.

1Corinthians 13:1 N.L.T. If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth* but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal.

13:2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would I be? And if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, without love I would be no good to anybody.

13:3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;* but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever.

13:4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

13:5 or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.

13:6 It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

- 13:7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
- 13:8 Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages* and special knowledge will all disappear.
- 13:9 Now we know only a little, and even the gift of prophecy reveals little!
- 13:10 But when the end comes, these special gifts will all disappear.
- 13:11 It's like this: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.
- 13:12 Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.* All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God knows me now.
- 13:13 **There are three things that will endure-faith, hope, and love-and the greatest of these is love.**

I believe that each one of you have callings on your life, special gifts that God has placed in you for his purpose. As we come near the close of this class and you go out and began to walk in your gifts and callings always remember whatever you do must be done in love. Don't be afraid to love or be venerable.

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Judges 2:6 And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land.

Go out and possess the land that God has promised to you!