

whispers, but something permanent: something like the scrolls of Moses and the prophets he'd studied in his youth. They'd been eye-witnesses, but the people to come behind them wouldn't be able to be. And so, one last time in this chapter, he flashed back to Jesus' ministry. First, to the beginning of it.

LK 2.21-22 ~ *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

EX: Jesus's baptism was attended by scores of people—and among them, it seems, was Peter! It shouldn't surprise us that Peter would follow Jesus when he would be brought to him later by his brother, Andrew. After all: one doesn't forget hearing **His confirmation** from the Jordan river! But then, his mind flashes again:

2PT 1.18 ~ *And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

EX: In this, Peter's mind went to the mount of transfiguration (**MT 17; MK 9; LK 9**). Again, Peter **remembered His confirmation**: that they'd witnessed something amazing and remarkable demonstrating that Jesus was, in fact, the promised Christ.

2PT 1.19-21 ~ *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.*

AP: It can be easy, sometimes, to let doubt creep into ourselves. It's natural. But Peter took comfort seeing in Christ all the prophetic word confirmed: the fulfillment of all the prophecy that had been preached before. He placed himself in the same company as the prophets before him: *holy men of God [who] spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*. And today, we can take comfort that we have this same word—this same prophecy and Scripture which we can heed, which we can place trust in! The same word Peter looked at that was **confirmed** by the word of the Father and the presence of the Spirit in the Jordan is the same word we have in front of us, today. And Peter's word to the church in Asia Minor is the same as His word to us: *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; (2PT 1.19-21)*

CONCLUSION

In the flashes of a dying mind, we see a repeat of everything that mattered to them. Childhood games played, embraces and kisses shared, and sunsets partaken together with loved ones. But in the flashes in Peter's mind, we see the Lord: **His promised Spirit, His true vine, His prophecy of Peter's coming death, and His confirmation. Why did these jump to Peter's mind?**

I believe it was because the one thing that REALLY was stuck in Peter's mind was those he'd leave behind—the disciples in *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*. He desired them to share his *like precious faith*. And the only way that would happen would be for them to reflect upon the life and work and promises of God—and the same is true, today.

PS 1.1-2 ~ *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

INVITATION

#697 [Exp-NTGE][1.3]
02/03/2026

Flashback

2PT 1.1-21 (NKJV)

PC Pchd

QUESTION: How did Peter want the church in Asia Minor to be strengthened?

TRN TO 2PT 1

INTRODUCTION

DEATH/Near Death Experiences/Appearance in Media & Brain Scan at Death

It's an amazing thought: your mind seeming to race to fit in a recovery of your entire life in a flash. No one knows why—perhaps it's a final mercy from the Father before death and judgment for all mankind.

BACKGROUND (2PT 1.1)

2PT begins simply: *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ*, While technically we aren't certain of the audience of this second letter, since he would refer to *this second epistle* in **2PT 3.1**, it's most likely he wrote to the same audience as **1PT 1.1b-2a**—*To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*: Yet, his audience seems universal: *To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: (2PT 1.1b)* As is so often the case, Peter doesn't place himself above or beyond his fellow believers (as he hadn't put himself above his fellow elders in **1PT 5.1**). He's a fellow elder, a fellow bondservant: but also, an apostle. But more importantly: he pointed to the faith that they all shared: that *like precious faith*. And that's his goal: to speak words to his brethren that would encourage that *like precious faith* and prepare them for a future without him in it.

Peter's life seemed to be coming to an end. And in that, his mind flashes back to the three years of Our Lord's Ministry—his life flashing before his eyes. And as he thinks back to these moments, he hopes that these memories would strengthen the knowledge and faith of the disciples in Christ, and in their *like precious faith*.

BD1: He Remembers His Promised Spirit (JN 14:15-18; 2PT 1.2-4)

ILL—Memory Box (placed in my office; small symbols of my mom's mom; little things she'd given—little gifts that mean so much to me) We place great value on loved things from loved ones. And Peter reminds the disciples that we have been given something great from God.

2PT 1.2-4 ~ *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.*

EX: Greater than kitschy trinkets, He had given the disciples something amazing: *"Grace and peace...the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord"*—*"everything pertaining to life and godliness"*. Regardless of their status, power, or wisdom outside of Him, Christ had given them each single thing needed to *be partakers of the divine nature*. And in this, he flashed back to that final night in the upper room:

JN 14.15-18 ~ *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

EX: Peter remembers His promised Spirit—that gift Jesus had promised the night before His arrest, and initial departure from His disciples. And He had fulfilled this promise! He gave Peter, Andrew, James, and John—along with the rest of the Apostles—His Spirit: and with that, the wisdom and inspiration they’d needed to preach and spread the gospel.

Now, his life was near its end, and he pointed to this memory to help the disciples in Asia Minor (and to us) to remind them that they weren’t going to be left orphans, either: God had given them everything through His promised Helper, through the inspired Apostles, and now, He’d insure that same “*everything pertaining to life and godliness*” would remain for them.

AP: Today, the 1st Century miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit have gone (this should be obvious to all of us when we realize the same power present in Peter and Paul is no longer present in anyone today). But we have not been left orphans, either: He has given us “*everything pertaining to life and godliness*” in His Holy Word: and as that promise comforted the Apostles in the upper room, and the disciples in Asia Minor, so it ought comfort us.

2TM 3.16-17 ~ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

BD2: He Remembers His True Vine (JN 15.1-4; 2PT 1.5-9)

2PT 1.5-9 ~ *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.*

EX: Peter next turns to spiritual growth: faith into virtue, virtue into knowledge, knowledge into self-control, self-control into perseverance, perseverance into godliness, godliness into brotherly kindness, and brotherly kindness into love. There are hours that could be spent in these verses, alone! But the overarching message is clear: the true Christian grows—they don’t remain what they were, they become something more. And in this, he flashed back to that upper room, again, and another of our Lord’s declarations:

JN 15.1-4 ~ *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

EX: Peter remembered His True Vine. Christ had taught the importance of bearing fruit: growth & development. There are many ways in which we bear fruit. *But we also bear fruit in growing and developing new Christian virtues: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (GL 5.22-23)*

AP: Sadly, many seem to think Christ is content with a bare vine with a single, shriveled fruit on it. Peter wanted to help the disciples in Asia Minor he’d be leaving behind to understand the significance of growth—that they could no longer rely on him or the rest of the apostles. One by one, they’d die—going on to their reward—and as a result, if they didn’t step up: grow into the next Peter, Paul, John, and Andrew, **how could the church grow? How could the lost be saved?**

2TH 2.15 ~ *Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*

BD3: He Remembers His Coming Death (JN 21.18-19; 2PT 1.10-15)

There are two epistles in the NT that have always been a bit bittersweet to me. One is **2PT**, and the other is **2TM**. Both are written by apostles of our Lord, and both contain some of the final words of their authors. In **2TM 4.6**, Paul wrote of his own coming death to Timothy: *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.* The resigned sadness aligned with hopeful joy: knowing that the end of his service was at hand, leaps off the page. And the same is true in **2PT**.

2PT 1.10-15 ~ *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.*

EX: Peter knew his life was nearing its end. Perhaps he wrote from prison, perhaps the Spirit had revealed to him that the guards were on their way. And in this, he flashed back to the days before our Lord’s ascension.

JN 21.18-19 ~ *Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” ¹⁹ This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”*

APOSTLES/Peter/Death – First Clement

What a strange thing: to remember your coming death. While traditions differ in details, in the central message, they are united. Peter died at the hands of Nero in the mid 60s: dead in a similar method to His Lord: *stretch*[ing] *out* [his] *hands*, girded and carried on a cross of his own. Some point to him hung “**upside down**” as a request made from humility: not considering himself worthy of a death too like His Lord.

But more important than his manner of death was his preparation before it: *Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. (2PT 1.10-15)* Tradition points our minds to **MK**—believed largely to have been written by John Mark, a close associate of Peter and common scribe, based upon Peter’s sermons and accounts. Peter would ensure his memory of the Lord would live on: and it has!

AP: The Peter from the gospels seems almost unrecognizable compared to the epistles! Yet, in his diligence, he’d grown. He’d made his own “*call and election sure*”—and in ensuring his accounts and writings outlived him, we can do the same.

RM 12.9-13 ~ *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

BD4: He Remembers His Confirmation (2PT 1.16-21)

2PT 1.16-17 ~ *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.”*

EX: As Mark likely put the finishing touches on his Gospel account, Peter would have looked on with satisfaction: recognizing that he wouldn’t simply leave behind tales and