



## READING PLAN FOR WEEK OF January 10, 2021

### DAY 1

#### READ ► 2 Peter 1:1-4

When a guy and girl agree to date, the two appear to be inseparable. Their days are filled with ongoing text messages, periodic phone calls, and time spent at restaurants or at the movies. Whether they intend to or not, they occupy a pretty big part of one another's thoughts.

We should want to know more about Jesus in a similar way. Christ is infinitely glorious—far greater than anything or anyone we could ever imagine. We should desire to search the Scriptures and spend time in prayer so that we would know Him more deeply. After all, how could we possibly get bored with the One who is more captivating than anything or anyone we could ever set our eyes upon? It is by God's grace and power that we gain the knowledge of Christ that enables a life of godliness. God's people should value this knowledge, seeking to gain more and more of it— not just on an intellectual level (which is certainly important), but ultimately on a heart level.

**What are some habits or routines you can establish that will help you to know God (even when you may not feel like it)?**



### DAY 2

#### READ ► 2 Peter 1:5-7

It's very easy to look past the four small words listed in verse 5 of this passage— "For this very reason..." For what reason should a Christian make every effort to supplement their faith? It's precisely because God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. Therefore, we should pursue goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love.

If someone were to hand you a million dollars you wouldn't just leave it on the dining table without paying your bills. You would use that money gladly in order to fulfill the rightful purpose money was designed for. How much more should we press into godly virtues by honoring God with our entire lives? Our godly lives are not just for ourselves, but to show a dying world that God isn't far off, but near to us in Christ.

**What do you think is the foremost motivation that propels you toward godliness?**



## DAY 3

### READ ► 2 Peter 1:8-11

Imagine a number of runners assume their starting positions on the track. When the race begins, athletes initially run with all their might in order to win the race, but then one becomes distracted— maybe someone from the crowd is jeering, maybe there's a pain in his side. Whatever the case, the runner loses the smallest amount of intensity in his stride, just for a moment. But it is too late for him. Despite regaining focus and momentum, the runner has fallen behind. He doesn't wear the medal and raise his arm in victory. He has lost the race. Peter spoke about a similar scenario in verse 10. As we run the race of the Christian life, we can become easily distracted with any number of things going on in our lives. When we give in to distractions, losing a sense of urgency in following Christ and putting to death the sins in our lives, we become unfruitful, or even "useless." Further, we lose our sense of confidence in following Jesus, and this lack of assurance about our standing with God has major implications. Thankfully, when we keep our eyes on Jesus, He keeps us from stumbling, and we will bring Him glory and share in His victory.

**What can you do to maintain focus on Jesus so that you won't stumble?**



## DAY 4

### READ ► 2 Peter 1:12-15

Children often need quite a few reminders like "Don't forget to clean your room!" And "Please remember to say please and thank you!"

Let's be honest—we all do! Repetition is invaluable because we so easily forget the things we've heard. We become distracted. Sometimes, because our minds are running from one piece of information to the next, we may lose track of something we've heard even moments prior (like someone's name you've just met). God's children also need reminders because we easily forget. Similar to Eve, we often hear what God said, but we're inclined to repeat His Word in ways that misrepresent what He's said (Gen. 3:2-3)—sometimes due to ignorance, other times due to rebellion. Peter reminded his readers of the things he'd mentioned previously, as they are central to the Christian life. We too should realize our own inclination to forget what God has said, continually reminding ourselves of the gospel and the ways it affects our lives.

**How can you be intentional about reminding yourself of God's truth on a daily basis?**



## DAY 5

### READ ► 2 Peter 1:16-21

Peter testified by his experience that the prophecies about the Messiah written throughout Scripture were fulfilled in Jesus, proving the legitimacy of the gospel. Peter bore witness in this passage that he, James, and John literally saw the majesty of Christ firsthand, and heard the Father affirm the identity of His Son (Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36). Jesus was the promised Messiah who had come to earth.

Jesus is Lord. None of these facts are cleverly contrived myths. As God the Father instructed the disciples to listen to Jesus' teaching, in the same way, we should listen to the Scriptures. These are God's divine revelation to His people, and they carry the same authority as Jesus' words when He was on earth. The Scriptures are the very words of God.

**Why is the eyewitness testimony of the apostle useful for fighting doubts we might have about the truth of the Gospel?**

