

1 Peter

Chapter 2

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Two

SUMMARY: Verses 1-25

1. Peter encourages us to LAY ASIDE, RID YOURSELF, of actions and deeds that impede your spiritual growth.
2. We are exhorted to CRAVE God's Word. We are to have an unrestrained hunger for growing up. Growth happens as we taste of God's goodness through His Word and relationship with His Spirit which causes us to long for more.
3. Salvation is not a STAGNANT belief system. Salvation is an ongoing, life-giving relationship with Jesus. Jesus is referred to as a LIVING STONE, rejected by men but CHOSEN by God. Unbelievers will always be hostile to God.
4. Peter refers to us as 'living stones' meaning we are made alive by Jesus and His Spirit. We are not just alive human beings but we are God's spiritual house. God indwells us.
5. We can always trust God's work in Jesus. We will never be put to shame.
6. Jesus is to be held as PRECIOUS in the sight of every believer. To reject Jesus is to be disobedient. Disobedience is not just BAD ACTIONS but REJECTION of WHO JESUS IS.
7. Christianity is not a religious system or another denominational affiliation. To be a CHRISTIAN is to be a NEW RACE of people God's mercy towards us in Jesus brings us into being a new race of HIS CHOSEN people.
8. As a new race of people, chosen, royal, holy, and belonging to God we are to live as strangers in this world, living separate from sinful desires that come against us. We are to live so godly that unbelievers will recognize God's glory by analyzing our own lives.
9. Even though God has made us free, submission is a key foundation to living a prosperous Christian life. We must live submitted to natural authorities as well as to God. Our freedom doesn't give us the right to pick and choose how we live. We are to show respect for others regardless of how we are treated and follow Christ's example of how to live among unbelievers.
10. In walking out our Christian faith, Peter encourages us not to live with a retaliation mentality. As Christ died for our sins we are encouraged to live dead to sin and to live out our new position in Jesus, presenting ourselves as an instrument of righteous.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out to you most?
2. Why is 'ridding' yourself of sinful practices and desires so key to proper spiritual growth? This leads us to believe that tolerating sinful behavior in your life impedes your spiritual growth and causes you to be perpetually immature.
3. What does it mean to you to CRAVE or have an UNRESTRAINED HUNGER for God?
4. Why does Peter refer to salvation as more than a stagnant belief system? Why does he refer to Christians as living stones?
5. How is DISOBEDIENCE connected to REJECTION of Jesus? Have you ever considered disobedience as rejection?
6. What does it mean to you when you hear the statement "Christianity is a NEW RACE of people"?
7. Define why Peter describes your Christian life as an "instrument of righteousness".

APPLICATION

1. Are there sinful or disobedient practices you need to rid yourself of? What are they?
2. What could you do to create more of a CRAVING for God and His Word?
3. Do you view your Christian faith as more of a belief system or more like a NEW RACE of person in Jesus?
4. What mentalities do you need to change to think more like a NEW RACE and a CHOSEN CHILD of God?

