

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY:

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSTANTLY REMEMBERING THE TRUTH

Houses of Light Church • October 7-8, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

2 Pet. 1:12-15

"Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things."

I. INTRODUCCIÓN

- A. So far, the main point of what we have seen in **2 Pet. 1:1-11** has been to urge us to grow in the knowledge of Jesus and to keep adding virtues to our lives as a way of evidencing our salvation and to prevent stagnation and even worse slippage in the Christian life. Peter is aware that there are those who have made a kind of beginning in the life of faith and obedience, but then abandoned growth and decayed into destruction, so he wants to warn us about this.
- B. 'that's why' Connecting phrases at the beginning of a text are always important because they give more meaning to what is being said. Peter continues speaking: *'because I long for you to have a wide entrance into the eternal kingdom, I am going to be reminding you of these things even though you already know them and are firm in the truth.'* Here we see these basic keys to Christian learning: **We must know the truths of God but also being affirmed in them.** It is not only knowing something or hearing a message but being grounded in these truths. **In our time there is too much superficial and intellectual knowledge among Christian people. It is one thing to have information and quite another to be rooted in it, that is, our faith, decisions, criteria, etc. be based on truth and let's not just fill our minds with good ideas that we don't practice.**
- C. **Furthermore, we must constantly be reminded of the truths;** Especially in this generation, we are exposed to an excessive accumulation of information and images of all kinds and precisely for this reason we tend to forget what is a priority. **For a truth to be affirmed in our brain, it needs not only to be processed but reaffirmed in different ways. This means that those of us who know the truth and are firm in it need constant reminders of what God is telling us, in case we inadvertently fall asleep or forget (v.9).** God is faithful and will protect his children from stumbling (**1 Thes. 5:24; Rom. 8:29**), but the way he does it is personal, lively and dynamic and involves a real interaction between the other believers and Christ himself. Throughout Scripture God uses reminders with his people to awaken us from the sleep of indifference.

Jos. 4:5-7 "And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' ⁷ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

- D. Our tendency is to forget and God wants us to remember His truths, His mercies, His miracles, His warnings and plans for the end of the age. We demonstrate the genuineness of our salvation by making use of these reminders. Peter considers that even these believers affirmed in the truth are people in great need of reminders that stimulate them. Throughout Scripture there are invitations to remember (Ps. 103:1-5).

Psal. 78:5-7 "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments,"

- E. Peter shows us in this passage that preaching and teaching often consist of reminding people of what they already know. It is bringing to mind the truth that tends to be forgotten, or that we resist seeing, or whose meaning has not been properly appreciated. Peter is also going to move on to a warning, but he starts positively, he tells them that they already possess the truth and are firmly established in it. A teacher or a parent will always get more receptiveness by encouraging than by scolding. We do more to reform people and keep them by reminding them of their honors than by accusations. Pedro had plenty of wisdom to know that the most essential thing to get them to pay attention to him was to show them that he believed in them.

II. THE DEPARTURE OF PETER AND HIS LAST WILL

v.12-14 "Therefore I intend always to remind you... ¹³ I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, ¹⁴ since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me."

- A. The apostle wants to ensure that even after his departure from this world his readers continue to keep in mind the truths of the gospel because he knows how essential it is for them to remain firm. For Peter this is so important that he believes it is right to dedicate the rest of his remaining months on earth to the ministry of remembering; He even resolves to leave a letter that remains, to continue reminding the church of these things until Jesus comes. Later he reiterates it again.

2 Ped. 3:1 "This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles."

B. **On the other hand, Pedro looked with expectation at his approaching death.** The Lord had told him that it would not be long. This has two clear and comforting implications for us:

1. **It means that when we die we will be with the Lord.** The words Peter uses here denote that the body is like a tent, or a garment, and that death means that we lay aside the garment for a time and depart. **We must all be brave as our bodies wear out, as Paul also said:**

2 Cor, 5:8: "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord".

2. **From God's perspective the death of a believer is never accidental.** We must remember in **Jn. 21:18,19** Jesus predicted that Peter would die by crucifixion. Now Peter says here that God showed him that it was going to happen shortly. **The reason the Lord knows when and how Peter will die is because He is in control of the world.** In **Acts 12:6-11** God sent an angel so that Peter could escape when he was imprisoned. But, on this occasion He was not going to do the same, Peter was going to die crucified upside down according to tradition. But neither he nor his dear friends who were reading this letter, nor we, should doubt thinking that the devil is ahead. God has the last word. **No matter how tragic a believer's death may seem, God has the whole picture and always makes things right.**

v.15 "And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things."

C. **Peter as a spiritual father who writes his last will and testament wants to ensure that what they have accumulated and learned will be used in the name of Christ even after his departure.** In fact this letter is as if he were reliving that day at the gate of the temple in Jerusalem, when he said to the lame man, **"I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give to you"** (**Acts 3:6**). He did not have silver or gold to leave them, however, what he had was infinitely more valuable and he leaves the church a reminder of the valuable and great promise that Christ will return. **If Peter could see us today, he would be glad that his letter was preserved in Scripture and that almost two thousand years later he is still remembering and encouraging the saints to confirm our calling and election.**

D. **Peter says that he will take measures so that, when he is gone, what he has to tell them will be kept in their memory.** That may be a reference to the Gospel of Mark. Tradition holds that this gospel contains the materials of Peter's preaching. Irenaeus who was a prominent leader of the early church says that, after the death of Peter and Paul, Mark, who had been his disciple and interpreter of Peter, left in writing the things that Peter used to preach.

III. REFLECTION

- A. **Perhaps many times some messages sound repetitive to us, but if God is repeating them to us even through various messengers, it is because He knows that we need it.** Of the many things that fill our minds, perhaps very few of them are what the Lord is emphasizing to us.
- B. Particularly the message of intimacy with Christ; to make Him our treasure, the House of Prayer and the heart of God for Israel; They have resonated among us for many years and what we can see in this repetition of the Holy Spirit are two things: **on the one hand, God's loving insistence and his patience with us; and on the other hand our passive resistance to what God says even though we have heard it so many times.**
- C. **It is no coincidence that this is exactly the message that came to us after our past conferences:** God is reminding us of who we are as a church for Him and what our calling is; Live the Great Commandment and Fulfill the Great Commission or in other words: Cultivate passion for God and compassion for others from the place of encounter with Jesus in prayer, worship and his Word. **We are a Presence Centered Tabernacle Church.**
- D. To reflect, I would like to point out that we are a generation that has too many means to remember; We have hundreds of options to see and listen to all kinds of ideas but the question is: **which of all these messages are we choosing to constantly remember which are becoming more and more rooted deep in our hearts?** Talk about this with your friends in the Friendship Group.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **The Introduction to the House of Prayer bilingual course (3rd Level of the SOD) begins this Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.** Please register at the outside table or at www.nhop.la
2. **Class for Quinceañeras October 19 at 7:00 p.m.** Young girls from 14 to 15 years old. If you wish to register please scan the QR Code on the screens.
3. **Our Hallelujah Night family event! It is Monday, October 31 from 4:00 p.m.** We ask for your cooperation by donating candy. It can be turned in to the children's office or after each service.
4. **Women's Retreat November 3-4. Men's Retreat November 17-18.** Please register at the bookstore or at www.housesoflight.org