

As A Reminder; 2 Peter 1:12-15

I. Reminders

- A. I'm one who needs reminders
- B. I've tried every kind of day planner known to man
- C. Still, sometimes I forget
 - 1. Maybe it is the business of the day (week, month, etc.)
 - 2. Maybe it is a particular project
 - 3. Maybe it is the desire to just sit down and relax
 - 4. Regardless, I sometimes need a reminder
- D. Peter, after reminding his readers of the power of God and our ability to be partakers of the divine nature, sets out some qualities for us
- E. 2 Peter 1:10–11; 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

II. Qualities

- A. 2 Peter 1:12; 12 Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have.
- B. Faith
 - 1. The content of what is (and should be) believed about the good news of Jesus' way of salvation
 - 2. Faith is the basis of everything and without it, all we do has not meaning for our salvation
 - 3. Hebrews 11:6; And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 - 4. Faith is the cornerstone, the foundation of our existence
 - 5. Matthew 16:13–18; 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - 6. Ephesians 2:19–22; 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- C. Virtue
 - 1. Excellence of character
 - 2. 2 Peter 1:3; His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,
 - 3. Do we strive to model the character of Jesus in our lives, or do we just give lip service to this quality?

4. What happens when we see a flaw in our character?
 - a) "I'm just snarky (sarcastic, impertinent, or irreverent in tone or manner) that way"
 - b) "Well, he (she, they) are doing it"
 - c) We like our impertinence or irreverence; or we feel justified in our character because of what others are doing
5. 1 Peter 2:9; But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
6. We should hold our character up to Jesus' for comparison and then change what needs changing!

D. Knowledge

1. What we know; in this case our knowledge of the Gospel that leads to Christlikeness
2. 1 Timothy 6:20–21; 20 O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.
3. Colossians 2:1–5; 1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.
4. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ
5. That should make knowledge of Him our first priority

E. Self-control

1. The trait of resolutely controlling one's own desires (which would produce actions); especially sensual desires
2. Acts 24:24–25; 24 After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you."
3. "While Felix was procurator of Judea, he saw this Drusilla, and fell in love with her; for she did indeed exceed all other women in beauty; and he sent to her a person whose name was Simon... Simon endeavored to persuade her to forsake her present husband, and marry Felix... Accordingly she acted unwisely and... was prevailed upon to transgress the laws of her forefathers, and to marry Felix." Josephus, Jewish Antiquities
4. This quality is also listed in the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:23
5. We must control our desires that would lead us in the opposite direction of God

F. Steadfastness

1. The power to withstand hardship or stress; to wait expectantly
2. Hebrews 10:32–36; 32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great

reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

3. The Attorney General in Houston has subpoenaed the sermons dealing with homosexuality, the Mayor of Houston, or LGBT “rights” from a group of Houston area Ministers
4. We must have the fortitude to be steadfast in the midst of persecution

G. Godliness

1. “It refers to the doctrinal and daily lifestyle implication of the gospel. It describes not the exceptional, but the expected. It is a compound term from ‘good’ and ‘worship’. True worship is daily living by means of proper thinking” Bob Utely
2. 1 Timothy 3:14–16; 14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.
3. God-like-ness; the ability to take on the characteristics of God; to behave in the manner that God prescribes for us

H. Brotherly Affection

1. the affection naturally befitting the relationship between siblings; especially as the affection of those who are now siblings in God’s family
2. Romans 12:10; Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
3. Hebrews 13:1; Let brotherly love continue.
4. 1 Peter 1:22–23; 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
5. Loving our Brethren (the entire body of Christ) can seem to be very difficult, to love those that are hard to love, but Peter reminds to cultivate this quality

I. Love

1. A strong affection and regard for a person and their good as understood by God’s moral character; especially characterized by a **willing forfeiture of rights or privileges in another person’s behalf**
2. Some scholars say that brotherly love and love (the two different Greek words) are synonymous, but I think from this text here we see there is a difference
3. Philippians 2:5–7; 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
4. If that isn’t amazing enough, continue to read the text
5. Philippians 2:8; And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
6. We are to be reminded to give up our rights and privileges for the advance of the Gospel Just as Jesus did!

III. As A Reminder

- A. 2 Peter 1:13–15; 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.

- B. Sometimes I need a reminder of exactly who I am supposed to be and the qualities that God would have in me
- C. I thank God that Peter made every effort for us to recall these things!
- D. This is our reminder of what God thinks is important and what we should be working on