

Name of Assembly: United Apostolic Church

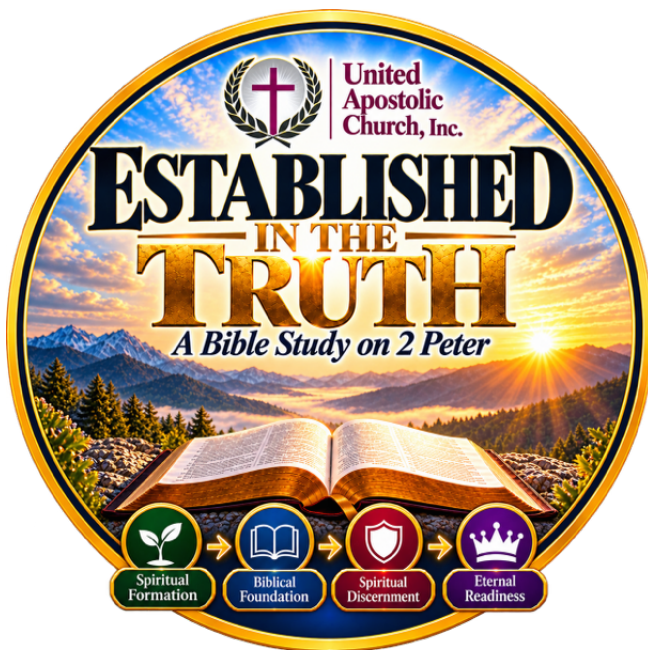
Type of service: Bible Study

Date: September 29th & October 6th, 2026

Series Topic: “**Established in the Truth**”

Lesson 1: “**Partakers of His Divine Nature**”

Text: 2 Peter 1:1-11



INTRODUCTION

We are beginning a new Bible Study series titled “**Established in the Truth.**” This series, is a study through **2 Peter** designed to strengthen believers in four critical areas: **spiritual formation, biblical foundation, spiritual discernment, and eternal readiness.**

Peter’s letter calls the church to grow in Christlike character, remain firmly grounded in apostolic truth, recognize and resist spiritual deception, and live faithfully in expectation of Jesus Christ’s return. By the end of this lesson, we should understand why Peter wrote his second letter, what it means to be a “partaker of the divine nature,” and why spiritual growth must be intentional in every believer’s life.

Spiritual Growth Self-Assessment

Before we begin tonight’s lesson, take a few minutes to reflect honestly on your spiritual growth. This activity is for your **personal reflection**. You are not required to share anything you are uncomfortable sharing.

Part 1 — Look Back

Think about your spiritual life **one year ago compared with today**.

Write a brief response:

1. **In what areas can you honestly say you have grown spiritually?**

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.....

2. **In what areas do you feel you have remained unchanged or still need significant growth?**

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.....

Part 2 — Identify Two Areas

3. **The area in which I believe I have grown the most is:**

.....

.....

4. **The area in which I most need God to help me grow is:**

.....

.....

Personal Reflection

5. Complete this sentence: **If I am to continue my transformation process in becoming more like Jesus, one change that should become more visible in my life is.....**

.....

.....

INTRODUCTION TO 2 PETER

Before analyzing the first 11 verses, it's important to grasp the purpose of this letter.

Peter begins: “**Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ...**” - 2 Peter 1:1. This is not merely a formal introduction. Peter identifies himself in two ways.

1. **He is first a servant.** Before speaking about his authority, he speaks about his submission. He belongs to Jesus Christ.
2. **He is also an apostle.** Peter is not simply offering personal advice. He writes as one who was personally called by Jesus Christ, walked with Him, heard His teaching, witnessed His miracles, saw His glory, witnessed His death and resurrection, and was commissioned to preach the gospel.

Peter wanted the church to understand that what he teaches is based on apostolic eyewitness testimony, not religious speculation.

PETER KNOWS HIS TIME IS SHORT

There is an urgency behind this letter. Peter writes in **2 Peter 1:14–15**, “**Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.**” Peter knows he will die soon, so he is doing more than teaching another Bible lesson: he is preparing the church to remain faithful after his death. What must they remember when he is no longer there to remind them? His answer begins with spiritual growth.

Personal Reflection

Complete the following sentence: **If I knew my time was limited, I would devote my greatest attention to**

.....
.....

PETER'S STRATEGY IS SIGNIFICANT

Something very important happens in chapter 1. Peter knows false teachers are coming, but he doesn't begin by describing them. Instead, he first strengthens the believers. Before saying, "**Beware of them,**" he says, "**Develop yourself.**"

That matters because **the strongest protection against deception isn't simply knowing everything that's false; it's being deeply established in what's true.**

Peter therefore begins with:

1. Faith: believing in Jesus Christ. Faith is where our Christian life begins and the foundation for everything that follows.	2. Spiritual Resources - God gives us what we need to live for Him. Through His power, God provides the spiritual help and strength we need to live a godly life.
3. God's Promises - God has given us promises we can depend on. As we believe and live by His promises, He helps us become more like Him.	4. Godly Character - Becoming more like Jesus in the way we live. God develops qualities in us such as goodness, self-control, patience, kindness, and love.
5. Spiritual Growth- Continuing to grow in our relationship with God. As Christlike qualities increase in our lives, we become stronger, more useful, and more fruitful Christians.	6. Christian Maturity - Becoming steady and established in our walk with God. A mature Christian continues faithfully with God, grows stronger in Him, and remains prepared for eternity.

The principle is that before Peter teaches them to recognize falsehood, he first teaches them to become strong in the truth.

PETER WRITES THAT WE HAVE LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH

“¹ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:” – 2 Peter 1:1.

A Precious Faith

Peter says, “...to them that have obtained **like precious faith** with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” – 1 Peter 2:1. Notice the expression “**like precious faith**.”

Peter is an apostle. He walked with Jesus for three years. He witnessed the Transfiguration and walked on water. He also denied Jesus three times — and was personally restored by Him. Peter writes not as a distant theologian but as someone who knew Jesus face to face. The believers to whom Peter wrote never had the experiences he had, yet Peter does not suggest that his faith is spiritually superior to theirs. They had “**...obtained like precious faith...**”.

This speaks to the equality of believers before God. There may be different ministries, offices, responsibilities, gifts, and levels of maturity, but salvation is not divided into superior and inferior categories. Peter’s point is that every believer has received the same precious faith in Jesus Christ. Peter’s apostolic position did not grant him a superior kind of faith.

Personal Reflection

Complete the personal affirmation below by writing your name in the blank space. Then read the affirmation slowly and prayerfully several times, allowing its truth to become personal to you.

My name is _____.

Just as God called Peter, strengthened him, and used his faith for His glory, I believe that God use me too.

The same God who gave Peter courage, strength, and opportunities to serve is at work in my life. I am available to God. I am willing to trust Him, obey Him, and be used by Him.

God can work through my gifts, experiences, voice, and life to bless others and accomplish His purpose. Peter was not used because he was perfect. God worked through him as he learned to trust Christ, obey Him, and surrender his life to His purpose.

By faith, I declare: **God will use my life. God will work through me. God has a purpose for me, and I am willing to follow wherever He leads.**

Peter called this faith **precious** because he understood its true worth. He had learned through experience that faith in Jesus Christ is more valuable than anything this world can offer.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we possess something greater than wealth, position, recognition, influence, or earthly security. All of these things can change, diminish, or be taken away. But genuine faith in Jesus Christ gives us something the world cannot give and cannot take from us.

Our faith connects us to God's promises, enables us to trust in God's power, and gives us confidence in God's faithfulness. It sustains us when circumstances change, strengthens us when we are weak, and keeps us anchored when everything around us feels uncertain.

This is why our faith is precious. Its value is not determined by what we possess materially but by Whom we trust. When our faith is firmly placed in Jesus Christ, we possess a spiritual treasure of immeasurable worth.

GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

“² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord” – 2 Peter 1:2.

One of the central themes in **2 Peter** is **knowledge**. Peter understood that false teachers would try to influence believers by introducing ideas that sounded convincing yet contradicted the truth of God. Therefore, one of the believer’s greatest protections against false teaching is to continually **grow in the true knowledge of Jesus Christ**.

But biblical knowledge is more than simply collecting information. A person can know facts **about Jesus** without truly **knowing Him**. Peter speaks of a knowledge of Christ that goes beyond the mind and begins to shape the believer’s heart, character, choices, and conduct.

The more we truly know Christ:

- ⇒ the more we understand **His character**;
- ⇒ the more clearly we understand **His will**;
- ⇒ the more easily we recognize attitudes, teachings, and behaviors that are **unlike Him**;
- ⇒ the more confidently we can distinguish **truth from error**; and
- ⇒ the more our own lives should begin to **reflect His character**.

Growing in our knowledge of Christ should therefore produce a visible change in the way we live. If our knowledge is increasing but our character, obedience, and devotion to Christ remain unchanged, we may be gaining information without experiencing true spiritual growth.

In 2 Peter, growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ is both a path to spiritual maturity and a safeguard against spiritual deception. The more truly we know

Christ, the more firmly we should stand in His truth, and the more clearly our lives should reflect His character.

NOTES
