

Do not give up

John 21:1-25; 1Peter 1:1-9 & Psalm 145:13b-21

2nd Sunday after Easter

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Life's circumstances can discourage us. What can we hold on to, to help us not give up?

Seeing is not believing but trusting those who did.

**What about Peter?
What about John?**

Peter's encounter with Jesus gives credibility to his testimony.
John 21:1-25

Having seen the resurrected Jesus Peter knows the "hope" that is in store for him and the Church despite life's circumstances.

What is this "hope" we have and will share in with Peter?

The benefits that come from believing without seeing.

Don't give up.

Bible Study Questions

Pray

Heavenly Father, give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means, and the will to put it into practice; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Read John 21:1-25 and 1 Peter 1:1-9

Questions:

1. The primary message the Apostle John ends his Gospel with is this; that the reader can trust the testimony of the Apostles Peter and John. They were both eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, therefore their testimony is true and to be believed (vs 24). Like last weeks passage, seeing is not believing. It's tasting the testimony of those who were eyewitnesses. Read carefully the detail John records in this Chapter about Peter and himself. What reassurance is given for the reader to believe the testimony of Peter and John to be true in the events that unfold?
2. The Apostle Peter begins his letter with encouraging words. Firstly, what does he say about the Church then and today? Who are we? (vss 1-2)
3. Why should we "praise God"? What are the many reasons Peter gives in verses 3 to 9?
4. Reread verses 8 and 9 to yourself. Is this true for you?
5. Think back to our reading from John's Gospel. Why should we believe what Peter has written?
6. Finally, thinking back over these two Bible readings, why should we not give up on what we believe? What is promised to us?

Pray

God our Father, may we look forward with hope to our resurrection, for you have made us your sons and daughters, and restored the joy of your youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A set prayer for the 2nd Sunday after Easter