

INSTRUMENT FOR GROWING

2 Peter 1:12-21

When people make **predictions about the future**, they make silly statements!

A **2000** issue of ***The Futurist*** magazine, **Laura Lee** lists some notable ones:

A.D. 100, Engineer Julius Sextus: "Inventions have reached their limit.

I see no hope for further developments in the future." (Repeated about 1900)

1873, John Eric Ericksen, surgeon to Queen Victoria: "The abdomen, chest, and brain will forever be shut to intrusion from surgeons."

1893, journalist Junius Henri Browne: "Over the next century law will be simplified. Lawyers will have diminished. Their fees will be vastly curtailed."

1949, computer scientist, John von Neumann: "It would appear we have reached the limits of what it is possible to achieve with computer technology."

In my life: "God has decreed that man will never land on the moon!"

2000, predictions about disaster of Y2K.

Even Christians made dire predictions about
"the end of the world."

What is it about the Bible that makes *IT* different from other voices?

Why is its prophecy predictably accurate?

Peter writes 2nd letter to saints scattered throughout Asia Minor.

They've demonstrated their faith in God.

They've endured strong persecution.

They're now struggling against a new enemy: false teachers.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Peter wants us to continue developing godly virtues.

He wants us to reject false teachers who contradict the truth.

They hinder people's growth. They cause stagnation.

Exhorts us: keep growing;

don't let false teachers "stunt" our *spiritual* growth.

***Since God's going to judge the world,
God's people should remain faithful
and focus on what contributes to growing.***

EXHORTATION TO GROW 1:1-11

Peter has no question about their salvation.

He desires continued growth, built on our faith as a starting point. 3-11

God has provided everything we need
to develop into all He wants us to be. 3-4

Keep adding godly traits to those *already* evident. 5-7

God wants us to develop faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control,
perseverance, godly living, brotherly affection, and love.

Reasons for desiring continued growth: 8-9

Positively, these godly traits lead to effective, fruitful living 8

Negatively, the lack of these traits makes us short-sighted and blind.

We become stagnant, filled with cold, fruitless head-knowledge.

As we grow, **we gain confidence** that we're not going to fall 10

That a rich welcome into God's eternal kingdom is waiting for us. 11

**Growing Christians, developing godly lifestyle,
don't doubt our standing before God.**

INSTRUMENTS FOR GROWING 1:12-21

God's Word leads to growth; as we keep adding these virtues, our life becomes fruitful and our hope secure. 1-11

1:12-21 Notice that v. 12 begins with "*therefore* or "*so*"

Therefore, Peter's going to keep reminding us of what God has said, through *him*, as well as through *other prophets*.

Peter presents two instruments for growing:

***His* revelation**

***Prophetic* (biblical) revelation**

By uniting them, he demonstrates that they're really the same thing.

***His* revelation is another *prophetic* revelation.**

God is speaking through him as He did through earlier prophets.

PETER'S REVELATION 12-18

Peter's convinced they already know the truth;

he's concerned about the future. He writes to encourage *us* in the future.

His purpose 12-15 "So I will always *remind* you of these things, even though you know

*them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 13 I think it is right to **refresh your memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14 because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to **remember** these things.”*

Peter knows he won't be around much longer.

Jesus told him 30 years before that he would die for His name.

Apparently God has made clear that the time of his departure is near.

He's convinced they understand the truth.

They've heard it many times before. They give evidence that they get it!

They're firmly established in the truth.

Yet, he wants to be sure we don't forget what he's taught us.

He's not embarrassed to repeat himself *Cover and over again!*

He wants to leave us a permanent record

that will continue to *remind us* after his death.

As long as he lives, he's going to *keep reminding us* so we **NEVER forget!**

His confirmation 16-18 *“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. ¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.”*

He assures us that **his message is NOT his invention**.

Greek religion was based on cleverly written myths.

–result of years of letting their imagination run wild.

Judaizers invented tales/traditions to get people to do what they want.

Modern cults, even Christians, invent tales to convince people to follow. Peter didn't come up with a clever story like that.

He didn't make it up. He gives an eye-witness account of what he saw.

GOD gave him the message.

His message about Jesus' glory is confirmed by supernatural evidence.

God confirmed Jesus' glory through His transfiguration.

They were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

God's Word about Jesus was affirmed by God's voice.

He takes us back to evidence at the transfiguration.

That evidence demonstrates that Jesus is the promised Messiah. **17-18**

“For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred

mountain.” <= Matt. 16-17

16:27-28 “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. 28 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

They’d get to see a sneak preview of His 2nd coming.

17:1-6 “After 6 days Jesus took Peter, James and John, brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light...⁵...a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, “***This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!***”

GOD provides the evidence! Therefore, we can trust what He says.

PROPHETIC REVELATION 19-21

“We have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus’ divine confirmation on the mountain makes us even more certain of the truth of God’s Word.

As Peter becomes aware of his role as God’s messenger,
he begins to see himself in that prophetic tradition.

Peter’s revelation is like that of the prophets.

You’d be wise to pay attention to it, like you’d use a light
when you’re trying to find your way in the dark.

Peter depicts the world as a dark, murky swamp.

You turn the lights on to find your way safely through the dark.

You only use the light temporarily.

When daylight comes and the sun shines, you don’t need a light.

That’s how it is with God’s Word.

“Prophetic word” isn’t just a reference to prophets who tell about future.

It refers to all Scripture—prophets are God’s *spokesmen*.

The “prophetic word” includes *everything* God says in His Word.

“*ALL Scripture is God breathed, and is profitable...*”

God’s Word helps us find our way in the dark.

However, when the Light appears, He’ll show us the way.

Major difference: his message has become even more sure, because of fulfillment of God’s Word they’ve already seen.

We have greater certainty about God's *future* promise, because we can look back at how God fulfilled what He promised *in the past*.

Fulfilled prophecy is a great evidence of Bible's accuracy.

More than **300 O.T. prophecies** about Jesus' 1st coming.

Odds against all being fulfilled are astronomical

Study: **Just 8** of them = **1:10¹⁷** = 1 with 17 0s after it.

Yet all 300 were fulfilled as promised.

1/3 of Bible was prophetic at time it was written.

We look back and can see how God has carried out His promises.

That gives us confidence to trust God for our future.

Prophecy is *MORE* sure because we can see what God's already done.

Like other prophets, his message is *NOT* his own idea.

For centuries some have taught that Peter's saying

you can't come up with the right interpretation on your own.

You can't study it on your own and come up with the right idea.

You have to have an authority—an official interpreter— to explain it.

That isn't Peter's idea!

Peter's idea is that **HE didn't originate it**.

Prophecy *never* came that way!

NO prophecy was ever the prophet's idea.

They didn't sit, trying to come up with some "prophetic word" to say.

Unlike press release, **they didn't "unloose it," they didn't "release it."**

It didn't come from them. **It wasn't of personal "origination."**

The **Holy Spirit** motivates people to **speak for God**,

as wind propels a sailboat and moves it onto the sea.

No sailboat can launch itself. It has no power!

It has to wait for wind in the sail. => **Our power comes from God!**

God's message must be generated by the Holy Spirit.

HE carries them along; He speaks through godly spokesmen.

IMPLICATIONS FOR US

As result of the Holy Spirit speaking, we have His Word.

Through His Word we develop to become all God wants us to become.

We become transformed into the image of His Son.

God has spoken; we better know what HE says!

God's Word is the instrument that leads to growing.

God's Word, will be useful to *motivate* us and to *enable* us to keep growing.

When we rely on other sources of authority, we open ourselves to error.

Feelings, circumstances, signs, visions, friends can lead us astray!

God has spoken in His Word. We must listen to HIS voice.

What's our **final source of authority**? Our opinion? Our culture?

Somebody's prophecy about the future? Or, **God's Word**?

We must listen to God's Word, believe it and obey it.

Spurgeon: "The Bible is the writing of the living God. Each letter was penned with an almighty finger. Each word in it dropped from the everlasting lips. ... Everywhere I find God speaking; it is God's voice, not man's; the words are God's words; the words of the Eternal, the Invisible, the Almighty, the Jehovah of ages. This Bible is *God's Bible*; when I see it, I hear a voice springing up from it saying, "I am the Book of God. Man, read me. I am God's writing. Study my page, for I was penned by God. Love me, for He is my Author, you will see Him visible and manifest everywhere."

Men die, but the Word lives. ...

The world grows dark, but God's light shines.

Those who build their life on God's Word, and keep growing will prosper;

They'll be fruitful.

They won't fall prey to false teachers who continue to show up at church.

God has spoken! Will WE listen to what HE says?