

## 2PeterWeek13 “Sharing Information”

### Community Group Questions

1. What type of experiences have you had with the Lord that you are willing to share to others?
2. Has anyone that you know had an amazing experience with the Lord that has impacted you?
3. Have you had a time in your life that you went to the Bible for guidance?
4. Have you had a time in which you struggled to prove the reliability of the Bible to other people?

Peter now starts to refute what the false teachers of the day were saying about Jesus and about His followers.

He does a little apologetics here. *Apologetics-Is the discipline of defending a position through the systematic use of information.*

*Today in 2 Peter 1:16-21 we are going to learn how to use experiential information and Biblical information to defend our faith and bring others to Jesus.*

### **Experiential information Vrs 16-18**

Now Peter was aware of the fact that false teachers were trying to lead Christians away from the teachings about Jesus. So what Peter did was tell them about a personal experience he had with Jesus.

Matt 17:1-9 Peter’s experience...transfiguration

So Peter is sharing with others his experience with the Lord (10am) \*The people that stood before you today in baptism are proclaiming that they had a personal experience with the Lord when they trusted Jesus

(8:30 & 11:30) \*\*\*George Mueller was educated in the universities of Germany in the early 1800s when rationalism which is a humanistic philosophy that leaves God out of life was popular. He lived a hedonistic lifestyle until a Christian friend invited him to a Bible study at his home. Mueller agreed but his intentions were to mock the friend.

He observed something that he never experienced before...his friend prayed and then read a passage from the Bible and they all sang a hymn. His intentions were to mock but what he observed were people that really believed what they said. At that point Mueller felt that he had no business being there. A few days after he left he felt convicted and gave his life the Lord.

He then went to a to Martin Luther university to study the Scriptures. While there he learned and experienced the power of prayer. While in Bristol UK he was concerned for all the orphans roaming the streets, these concerns led him to start orphanages and he started them by faith. Meaning he did not ask for money, buildings or food but prayed that the Lord would provide.

During the course of his life God sent the equivalent of 1million US dollars and Mueller. It is estimated that Mueller helped 10,000 orphans.

One story that illustrates Mueller's trust in the Lord is when the orphanage was housing 300 children and there was literally nothing for them to eat. The housemother of the orphanage informed Mueller. He asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited.

George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. "Mr. Mueller," he

said, "last night I could not sleep. Somehow I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in."

Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children.

I tell you this because one man's personal experience with other Christians impacted him.

After that Mueller praying for and witnessing the miracles of God in his ministry impacted tens of thousands of others. \*\*\*

(830 & 1130 pick up here)

What is your experience with the Lord? Maybe it was the events that led you to coming to know the Lord? Maybe it is something that happened in your life that just seems miraculous, health, child, job, finances?

When people are challenging or questioning faith it may be a great opportunity for you to bring up your experiences.

What if you struggle with recalling those events? Here is something you can do.

Examine: A very practical way to do this is at the end of your day look back at the what happened and where you can see evidences in which God was at work then write them down.

We also realize and Peter realized as well that people may challenge your experience with the Lord and obviously Peter's experience must have been challenged so what he did next was give them some...

**Biblical information Vrs 19-21** The importance of Biblical information is that in Hebrews 4:12 it states that the *“Word is Living and active and has the power”* to transform lives.

So lets do a little apologetic training and find out some Biblical information so that we can share it with others so that it can transform their lives as well.

*What does the Bible claims of itself?*

- **Guidance**

*Psalm 119:105 “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path”* In verse 19 Peter says it is “shining into dark spaces”

What darkness does the Word shine light into? Any dark area of our life... -Our need for Salvation GOSPEL -Decision making-Troubled times-Hopeless situations

- **Useful**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- **From God through people** 2 Peter 1:21 God communicated His Word through people. Audibly, dreams, visions and recording experiences.

If God’s Word is through people...

*How can we know the Bible is accurate?* We take God at His Word but there was a time in which we may have needed more proof or those we are talking to may need more proof.

*-Manuscript evidence*

There are over 24,000 manuscripts

Old Testament dated from 200BC-70AD

New Testament dated from 125AD- 250 AD

The manuscripts found compared to one another validate the message. They were found in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Greece and Italy. There are variants in some manuscripts but none have an effect on any Christian doctrine. They are spelling errors, duplicate words or numerical errors.

No other ancient writing has anything close to the amount of manuscripts the Bible has. Next in line is Homers Iliad with 600

Why is it so important to have this many manuscripts?

Biblical manuscript comparisons are 99.5% accurate.

*-Predictive Prophecy* In verse 20 Peter touches on the issue of prophecy.

Some people say well others have predicted things to happen like Nostradamus. Here are the problems.

1. Not 100% accurate. To know the prophecy is from God it has to be 100% Jer. 28:9
2. Predictions are general that anyone can make. In the future there will be...floods, wars, earthquakes
3. They may be associated with demonic activity that lead people astray. Remember Pharaoh's magicians in the story of Moses? They were able to mimic some of the miracles.

Let me tell you about a few Biblical prophecies.

Non-messianic (not about Jesus)

Daniel 2:37-42 The succession of the Great Kingdoms of the world Babylon, Medeo Persia, Greece and Rome. It is so accurate that critics constantly attack it.

Isaiah 44:28-45:1 Predicts Cyrus King of Persia 150 years before he was born.

Ez 37:7 Return of Israel to the land. Became a state in 1948

-Messianic prophecy-Jesus prophecy

Isaiah 53:2-12 Talks about our lost condition of sin and how Jesus suffered for us. 700 years before Jesus was born.

Daniel 9:24 predicts the year that Christ was crucified. 500 years before Christ.

Zechariah 12:10 refers to Jesus when it speaks about "the pierced One" 600 years before Christ

The main reason we hold the Word in our hands today is because it is...

- **Eternal** *Matt 24:35 Jesus said "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away"*

No one can destroy it.

*As Christians we can use our experiential information and Biblical information to defend our faith and bring others to Jesus.*

