

GOD'S SURE WORD

Peter writes his second letter near the end of his ministry. He's completing his life mission as an apostle who bears witness to the Gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, his words and deeds, and the life-transforming result of trusting in Him alone for salvation. Peter reminds his readers that "*His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness*" so you should "*make every effort to supplement your faith*" with character qualities in keeping with the divine nature of Christ.

Peter wants to stir up his readers by way of reminder, so that when he is gone, we can recall these truths at any time. Like a vigilant mother, always reminding children of important things. Why? Because beliefs drive behavior. You will live out what you believe. What Peter writes is God's Word written down, so we can refer to His truth at any time to make life decisions. Peter highlights three important aspects 1) the Bible is God's Word, not cleverly devised myth; 2) the Bible is God's Word, more fully confirmed; 3) the Bible is God's Word, written down by godly men "carried along" by the Holy Spirit.

NOT MYTH - The Bible is not made-up stories to teach a moral value. The Bible is objective propositional truth, historically accurate, about the most important person who ever lived. You can trust the Bible, believe it, and stake your life on its truth and reliability, just as Peter did. RC Sproul points out how Peter explains what his message is not and where it did not come from before He explains what it is and where it did come from. It's an echo of Paul in 1Corinthians 2:4, "*not plausible words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*" The Bible is not like mystical or esoteric gnostic revelation that cannot be corroborated.

2Peter 1:16 declares, "*for we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His glory.*" This was a powerful point to make in his day, because everyone then understood that Greek and Roman "gods" were myths, consciously made-up stories, even if they taught about principles and morals and values that are true.

LINEAR TRUTH - In contrast, Hebrew truth, as recorded in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, is linear truth based on objective reality. The people, actions and words presented in the Bible actually occurred in human history. The Bible records the good, the bad, the ugly about real people in relation to God, His commandments, and His purposes. The twelve apostles actually knew Jesus Christ personally.

The set pattern of Old and New Testament revelation is eyewitness account, corroborated in history. That's why there are four written gospel accounts, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Like witnesses in a court trial, as prescribed in the Mosaic Law, at least two or three are required to make testimony. When every detail does not match identically, this lends even more credibility to the testimony, because it shows lack of collusion and different perspective. The Bible accounts point to actual fact and the truth of the matter.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS - Peter and the other apostles were eyewitnesses of what they wrote about. John 1:14, "*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" 1John 1:1, "*that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life.*" Jesus was God come in human form, who Himself said that He spoke God's words and did God's works. Peter, James, and John were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

2Peter 1:17 explains, "*for when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to Him by the Majestic Glory, 'this is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain.*" Peter supplied his personal testimony about this "transfiguration of Christ" to his companion Mark, who recorded it in Mark 9, parallel to Matthew 17 and Luke 9. As though what God speaks through His prophets is not authoritative enough, God also confirms their proclamations as they came true in history, in both the Old and New Testaments. Not empty words, but promises kept. That's why you can trust the Bible! □