



PETER

THE MARTYR

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week One

This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,
and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control,
and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,
and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- 2 Peter 1:5-7

Scripture Reading

2 Peter 1:12-15

Devotional Reading

We know Peter the headstrong disciple. We might admire Peter the bold apostle. But in 2 Peter we get the chance to meet Peter the veteran, battle-tested leader. This is a man who has weathered the storms of countless ups and downs in following Jesus. A man who is soon to be a martyr.

And he realizes that his end is near: "I know that the putting off of my body will be soon." He is serving God in what he knows to be the final stage of his life.

Have you ever had an important deadline? Whether for work, a school project, or even a social engagement, sometimes we only have a fixed amount of time to complete a task. What happens when the deadline draws near? Of course, we fix our attention only the most crucial aspects of the task!

So what is Peter's focus here nearing the deadline of his very life? It's in teaching others how to grow in their faith and godliness! He says he wants to focus so much on establishing others in truth that when he's gone, they'll "be able at any time to recall these things."

He doesn't care if they remember him fondly or make a statue in his honor. He doesn't care about his financial or popularity legacy. When he departs the world, he wants people to remember how to grow closer to Jesus.

What will you be remembered for? What will your legacy be? Erwin McManus, one of Pastor Scott Stevens' favorite teachers, makes the following, deeply insightful statement: "Do you want to live your life for being known, or do you want to live your life for being worth knowing? Do you want to live your life for public recognition or will you live your life for private reward?"

Faith In Action

What is the most important thing you've learned this year about following Jesus? How can you help impart this lesson to those who still need to learn it?

Today's Prayer

God, thank you so much for the hope of spending eternity with you! You have filled my heart with hope and joy. Please help me focus my attention on how to encourage and build up my brothers and sisters.