Connecting with God through 2 Questions a Day

LIFE GUIDE

THE BIG PICTURE

Studies in 1 & 2 Peter

March 4, 2007

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 5, Issue 18

The 5 Purposes of the
Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Close Encounters of the 5th Kind

Introduction to II Peter 1

In UFOlogy the most intense contact with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence is a close encounter of the 5th kind. It is beyond the mere observation of an alien, or even human abduction; it is cooperative interaction between a human being and the ETI. This is precisely what God has in mind for us; He wants to have a cooperative relationship with us that allows us to experience Him in the most intimate way. As Peter's second letter begins he informs us by the Holy Spirit that we can literally become partakers of the divine nature; our interaction with God is to be a complete union. He has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness because we know Him personally, and has given promises to us that allow us to connect directly with His nature, which is the ultimate resource. Since this is true we are to pursue the qualities of morality, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. As we do these things we bear fruit in others' lives, and demonstrate that we are in a genuine relationship with God. As Peter wrote he wanted to prepare his readers to access this promise-based relationship with God since God had revealed to him that he was about to die. This preparation entailed reminding them about these basics so that when he was gone they would remember what to do. While repetition at times may seem tedious Peter's example shows that it is necessary anyway. Finally, Peter pointed to the words of prophets, those like himself who spoke for God. Through their words in the Scriptures there are many examples of God's interaction personally with His people, and these are sure evidence of His desire for that. Peter points to one the most intense examples of that, of when he observed Christ's body being glorified before His death. When we consider the promises that God has given to us, the preparation by way of reminder from Peter, and the prophetic words regarding this, there is no doubt that God wants us to have a close encounter of the 5th kind with Him.

Understanding the big picture of God's work helps us serve Him no matter what...

Daily Study Questions for II Peter 1

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.thehospitalchurch.com/small groups/ABFs/leader resources)

1. Read 2 Peter 1:1-2. What did Peter and his readers have in common (v1), and how did it come to pass (v1)? What was his desire (v2)?	
2. In 1:3-4 what do believers have (v3) and by what means (v3)? What can we experience (v4) and how does this occur (v4)? Apply.	
3. From 1:5-7 what qualities are we to "layer" upon each other in our lives (v5, 6, 7)? How do you think these relate to each other?	

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II Peter 1 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From 1:8-9 why are the qualities of 1:5-7 important (v8, 9)? What condition must be met for these qualities to have their desired effect (v8)?	
5. Based on 1:10-11 what are we to do (v10), and with what attitude (v10)? What can we expect if we do this (v11)?	
6. Looking at 1:12-13 what did Peter consider necessary (v12, 13), and what did he think this would do (v13)? How can we apply this?	
7. Using 1:14-15 what did Peter believe was about to occur (v14) and why (v14)? In light of this what was his goal (v15)?	
8. In 1:16-18 how did Peter "defend" his testimony (v16)? To what event in v17-18 was he referring (see Matt 17:1-8)?	
9. According to 1:19 what effect did Peter's experience have on his acceptance of God's word as true (v19)?	
10. From 1:20-21 where do all the words of Scripture come from (v21)? Why should we trust them even though they came through a human "filter" (v20)?	
11. Looking back at 2 Peter 1 what do we need to do to experience God's nature in our everyday lives (v1-11, 12-15, 16-21)?	

Scripture to Remember

"His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."

2 Peter 1:3 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

Www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Let's Get Real about Wives

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. How would you define "inner beauty"? What is so attractive about that?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. In what sense are both husbands and wives to be submissive to each other?
3. What are some limitations to being submissive (when should we not submit?), and how should these be exercised?
4. Share what you have observed to be the most common ways that husbands and wives abuse each other? How could mutual submission correct that?
5. Why is inner beauty permanent, and why is it precious to God? How can it be cultivated?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.