

1ST & 2ND PETER
STUDY GUIDE KEY
LESSON ELEVEN – 2 PETER 2

Linda Pringle

Read 2 Peter Chapter 2

Peter used this section of his letter to describe false teachers and their messages. Our homework this week is to use our knowledge of the Bible (either individually or during group time) to discern truth from error. First, we are going to compare a few passages from two versions of the Bible. While no version of the Bible is perfect, The New American Standard Bible (NASB), the New International Version (NIV), the New King James Version (NKJV), and the English Standard Version (ESV) are all considered scholarly versions. Each version attempts to translate the literal original language from the earliest manuscripts into English as a collaborative effort with many scholars contributing.

We are going to do a side-by-side comparison with The Message Bible: The Bible in Contemporary Language by Eugene H. Peterson. The Message Bible came out in 2002 and many well-known pastors and authors use this version to teach from. The verses on the left side of the page are from the NASB but you can use any scholarly version. In the right column, write your thoughts. What is missing? What is added? How is the meaning changed?

NASB Version	The Message	Differences
Matt 6:9-13 9 Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.	Matt 6:9-13 9 Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. 10 Set the world right; Do what's best — as above, so below. 11 Keep us alive with three square meals. 12 Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. 13 Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes.	God revealed Himself through Christ. Jesus would not have prayed this. "Hallowed" means "holy" in the Greek. "AS ABOVE, SO BELOW" - A popular New Age, Oneness-Pantheistic, teaching says, "as above, so below." New Age Journal published a book titled As Above, So Below. The Introduction says, "'As above, so below' ¹ means that the two worlds are instantaneously seen to be one when we realize our essential unity with God.. .. The One and the many, time and eternity are all One." (New Age Journal, So Above, So Below, p. xi) v http://www.av1611.org/kjv/mess_bible.html
Matt 6:30-33 30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32	Matt 6:30-33 30 "If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers — most of which are never even seen — don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? 31 What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so	

<p>"For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.</p>	<p>you can respond to God's giving. 32 People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. 33 Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.</p>	<p>His righteousness is missing!</p>
<p>John 10:30 - I and the Father are one.</p>	<p>John 10:30 - I and the Father are one heart and mind.</p>	<p>Christ IS God, not just in heart and mind.</p>
<p>Rom 15:11-13 11 And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM." 12 Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE." 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Rom 15:11-13 11 And again: People of all nations, celebrate God! All colors and races, give hearty praise! 12 And Isaiah's word: There's the root of our ancestor Jesse, breaking through the earth and growing tree tall, Tall enough for everyone everywhere to see and take hope! 13 Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!</p>	<p>What? This misses the point and seems very New Age.</p> <p>IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE is missing. This is a reference to Christ.</p>

Below is an article written by Joel Osteen taken from his ministry's website. Make notes in the right column of Bible truths that differ from Osteen's teachings. If you can, include Scripture you may know. (<http://www.joelosteen.com/hopefortoday/pages/article.aspx?h4tid=52>)

<p style="text-align: center;">It's Time to Use Our Words to Declare Good Things</p> <p>I once read an article about doctors who incorporated "talk therapy" to treat patients suffering with depression. Instead of medicating the problem, the doctors instructed the patients to start making positive declarations over their lives, saying such things as: "I have a bright future. People like to be around me. Good things are in store." Some of the patients were depressed because they were</p>	<p>Word of Faith Movement</p> <p>Where is God's sovereignty? Where is rejoicing in trials? Where is the suffering of Christ from 1 Peter? Where are Scripture references to back up these claims? Where is Jesus, the cross, or humility over sin?</p> <p>This is using scriptures as a magic tool to get</p>
--	---

facing life-threatening diseases and felt there was no hope. The doctor asked them, “Has anyone ever survived this disease?” The answers were always yes. So he told them, “Then I want you to start saying, ‘I will make it. I will be one of the people who beats the odds.’ ”

Those patients obeyed the doctor’s orders, and amazingly, many of them not only came out of their depression, but they also made full recoveries!

It’s time to use our words to declare good things! Speak blessings over your life and your family. Throughout the day, say things such as, “I have the favor of God. I am strong and healthy. I’m well able to do what I need to do.”

Did you know that what you say about yourself has greater impact on you than anything anybody else says about you? Many people are overly critical of themselves, saying, “I’m so clumsy. I can’t do anything right.” “I’m so overweight. I’ll never get back into shape.” “I never get any good breaks.”

They may not realize it, but they are **cursing their future**. Those words sink into their minds. Before long, they develop a defeated mentality, low self-esteem and diminished confidence. Worse yet, those **negative mindsets can interfere with God’s plan for their lives**.

One of the best ways to break free from such strongholds is simply by speaking words of victory. Every day, **look in the mirror and declare, “God’s Word says I am strong. God is fighting my battles for me. I’m excited about my future.”**

Maybe you are lonely because you don’t have a lot of friends. Instead of complaining, start declaring, “God is bringing great people into my life. I know He loves me, so I can risk loving others.”

Speak blessings over your life, and as you do, you’ll go out with more confidence, you’ll be more congenial and, in turn, you will attract new friends.

When discouragement comes, instead of sitting back and accepting it, say, “No, I’m a victor and not a victim. I may have been defeated before, but the past is the past. This is a new day.”

It’s not enough just to think it; you need to hear it, because what we constantly hear ourselves saying we will eventually believe.

Some people live in a perpetual state of financial crisis. They can’t seem to pay their bills — always living “under their circumstances” and constantly speaking defeat.

If you are struggling financially, remind yourself repeatedly, **“I am the head and I am not the tail. I will lend and I will not borrow. Everything I touch will prosper and succeed.”**

“Oh, Joel, I can’t say that,” you may be thinking. “None of that is true in my life.”

Yes, it is true! That is what faith is all about. The world

“happy life.”

Paul was not healed from his thorn in the flesh and he had faith.

The danger of this is that people believe that if things go bad either they didn’t have enough faith or God was not faithful.

says you need to see it to believe it, but God says you must believe and then you'll see it. You must speak it by faith.

Make a list of your goals, your dreams, the areas where you want to see change. Confirm your desires by Scripture, and then every day before you leave the house, speak those blessings aloud. Something supernatural happens when you speak those words aloud.

Maybe you struggle with condemnation because of past mistakes. Each day, boldly declare, "I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. God is pleased with me. He is on my side." If you say something like that on a consistent basis, guilt and condemnation won't hang around.

When my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1981, she made a list of 40 Scripture passages about healing. All through the day, she'd quote those Scriptures and say things such as, "I will live and not die. God is restoring health unto me. With long life He satisfies me."

Even though she weighed a mere 89 pounds and the doctors had given her only a few weeks to live, Mother refused to see herself as defeated and dying. Instead, she saw herself growing stronger, living a long, healthy, happy life. Her words caused her faith to rise and filled her with hope.

Little by little she started feeling better, and eventually, God supernaturally healed her! Today, nearly a quarter of a century later, Mother is still vibrantly alive and praying for other people to be healed, as well. Moreover, to this day, before she leaves the house, she speaks words of blessing over her life.

You can do the same thing. Find the Scriptures that apply to your situation and then declare them. This is especially important in areas in which you continually struggle. Do not let another critical word come out of your mouth about yourself. Instead, take a few minutes every day to bless your life, to declare the victory.

Understand, it's not enough to avoid saying anything negative; you must go on the offensive and start making positive declarations over your life. Remember, your own words will have more impact on your future than anything anybody else says about you.

Friend, if you'll do your part and speak words of victory, God will pour out His favor in exciting, fresh ways in your life, and you will live the abundant life He has in store for you.

JOEL OSTEEN

