

# Habituation & Invitation

## 2 Peter 1:16-21

### Intro

If you would, please open your Bibles to **2 Peter 1:16-21**...

*And before we make our way through the last section of **2 Peter 1**, let's remind ourselves of what we have covered so far...*

In verses 1-4 we focused on the incredible *treasure* that we have as believers...

- In verses 5-9 we worked our way through the ingredients that we are to add if we are to follow the *recipe for discipleship*...

In verses 10-15, we focused on the importance of *finishing well*...

*With this brief reminder of where we have been, please follow along as we see where we are going next...*

### **2 Peter 1:16-21 (NKJV)**

**16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**

**17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

**18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

**19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;**

**20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,**

**21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

*Now, as we make our way through this final section of 2 Peter 1, we will spend our time considering two primary subjects...*

**1) Eyewitnesses of His Majesty**

**2) Followers of His Word**

*But before we move into our first section, I would like to briefly define the two words that make up the title of this study:*

### ***Habituation & Invitation***

*And please allow me to define my terms...*

**habituation** — *a settled habit; a focused and regular manner of conduct; the way we normally do life...*

**invitation** — *a request for another to join you...*

*Now, I believe that **habituation** and **invitation** are vitally important aspects for our lives as disciples...*

You see, in order for us to fulfill the Great Commission we must first be willing to ***habitually follow the Lord Jesus*** as disciples and then we must be willing to ***invite others to join us*** as we travel the road of discipleship...[expand]

- And it is important to remember that ***habituation comes before invitation...***

We cannot invite others to join us in the process of discipleship if we are not growing as disciples ourselves...

- So, in our study today we will see that we are called to be both ***Eyewitnesses of His Majesty*** and ***Followers of His Word...***

And as we are ***habituated*** in both of these areas, we will be able to ***invite*** others to join us in this wonderful adventure of discipleship...

*With that said, let's move into our first section...*

## **1) Eyewitnesses of His Majesty (vs 16-18)**

*Now, as we move into these final verses of 2 Peter 1, Peter will be focusing in on two areas that are of special importance...*

**Peter will be warning believers about**

**1) false teachers**

**2) the denial of the Second Coming of Christ**

*Now, these two subjects are intimately related...*

Because while not every false teacher denies the return of the Lord Jesus, everyone who denies the return of the Lord Jesus is a false teacher...[expand]

And as disciples, we must be wary of such individuals and flee from them...

- And one of the ways that we protect ourselves from the dangerous influence of false teachers is to become habitual ***eyewitnesses of the majesty of the Lord...***

*With this in mind, let's move into vs...*

**16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**

*First of all, Peter begins with the words **For we...***

With these words, I believe that Peter is making a distinction between the Apostles and the false teachers who we seeking to lead people astray...

- And this distinction is important — because as believers we should be people who can ***distinguish between true teachers and false teachers...***

*We see a wonderful example of this sort of discernment in...*

**Acts 17:11 (NKJV) [Paul in Berea...]**

**These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.**

*Peter continues on in vs 16...*

**For we did not follow cunningly devised fables**

In other words, Peter and the apostles weren't making things up...

- They were not fiction authors — they were not the creators of clever tales...

*Because what would be the point in all that?...*

All we have to do is read the book of Acts and we realize there was ***no upside*** to being an apostle if the Lord Jesus did not actually rise from the dead...[expand on the difficulties they endured...]

**For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

The phrase **power and coming** is a literary way of saying ***powerful coming*** or ***coming in power***...

- And the word **coming** in the Greek is the word ***parousia***...

And as far as I can tell, every time that it is used in reference to the Lord Jesus it speaks of ***His Second Coming***...

So, Peter is letting his readers know that he was not making stuff up when he shared with them about the return of Christ...

*And this is a vitally important truth...*

***Because we have a tendency to become distracted if we lose sight of the fact that the Lord Jesus is going to return...***

[ex. playing hide and seek as a kid and no one comes to find you...]

We can have this view of Christ — we can think that He is never coming back so we might as well get along as best as we can...

- And even if He does not come **to us** in our lifetime — we will surely go **to Him** at the end of our lifetime...[expand]

***And all believers will participate in His Second Coming...***

*To remind ourselves of this wonderful reality, please turn to...*

### **Revelation 19:6-16 (NKJV)**

**6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!**

**7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."**

**8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

**9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."**

**10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."**

**11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**

**12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

**13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**

**14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

**15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

**16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:**

**KING OF KINGS AND  
LORD OF LORDS.**

***APPLICATION – Trusting that Christ will return to establish His rule upon the earth encourages us to keep following Him though the way is difficult...[expand]***

*Please turn back to 2 Peter 1 as we look at the last part of vs 16...*

**but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**

So, Peter and the apostles weren't making things up when they taught about the second coming of Christ...

*In fact, they actually got a sneak peek of what that return will be like...*

- [ex. movie trailers — just enough to cause you to want to see it — (13 Hours trailer)...]

Now, what Peter is referring to with the words **eyewitnesses of His majesty** is the Transfiguration of Jesus as recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke...

**Matthew 16:28 (NKJV)** *[the Lord Jesus speaking]*

**“Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”** *[expand]*

*Continuing on in 2 Peter 1 to vs 17...*

**17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

**18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

*To remind ourselves of this event, would you please turn to...*

## Matthew 17:1-6 (NKJV)

**1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain [Mt. Hermon?] by themselves;**

**2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.**

- The Lord Jesus' glory is revealed — Peter, James, and John were *eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty*...

**3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.**

**4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."**

- Peter is mistakenly putting Moses and Elijah on the same level with the Lord Jesus...

**5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**

**6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.**

- With these words, God the Father is making it clear that *the Lord Jesus* is the One who is receiving honor and glory — Moses and Elijah are not on His level...

*This truth is made clear in the book of Hebrews...*

## Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

## Hebrews 3:3 (NKJV)

For this One [Jesus] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

Now, as we consider the fact that Peter, James, and John were eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty at the Transfiguration, we must come to grips with the fact that ***we were not on the mountain with them...***

***And as a result, we are not eyewitnesses of Jesus' majesty as they were...***

*So, in what way can **we** be eyewitness of His majesty?...*

Well, to be an eyewitness to something you must experience it personally...

- So, the first step is being open to personally witnessing the majesty of the Lord Jesus...

***And we become eyewitnesses of His majesty as we read the Bible and the Lord reveals Himself to us through the Bible...  
[expand]***

***We also become eyewitness of His majesty as we step out in faith and see Him work in the situation...[expand]***

***We become eyewitnesses of His majesty as we see Him change our lives and the lives of those around us...[expand]***

*And on and on it goes in thousands of big and little ways...*

*But if this witnessing of His majesty is to become habitual, we must choose to open our eyes — we must be looking for His majesty...*

- [ex. If you were a nature photographer, you would make a habit of looking for beautiful shots...]

***Likewise, if we are to be eyewitnesses of His majesty, we must be looking for His majesty...[expand]***

Then, as we are habitually seeking to be eyewitness of His majesty, we will extend the invitation to others to join us...

- Just as a nature photographer would want to invite others to join them — so as we are eyewitness of His majesty will invite others to join us...[expand]

*Please turn back to 2 Peter 1 as we move into our second section...*

## **2) Followers of His Word (vs 19-21)**

**19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed,**

What Peter is saying here is that the Transfiguration of Jesus was a ***confirmation of the prophecies of the Old Testament...***

- You see, the prophets had predicted that the Messiah would come in power and glory and that power and glory had been revealed at the Transfiguration...[expand]

With that said, we understand that the Transfiguration was just a preview of the many Conquering King prophecies of the Old Testament that will be fulfilled...

*Peter continues on in vs 19...*

**And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;**

**heed** — *to pay close attention to something, follow...*

Essentially, Peter is calling on believers to follow the prophetic word — to pay close attention to it — to follow it in their hearts...

- [expand on what it means to follow from the heart — not with hypocrisy...]

*Now let's consider the illustration that Peter used for following the Word...*

**as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises**

***Believer's Bible Commentary***

***“The prophetic word is the shining light. The dismal or dark place is the world. The dawning of day signals the end of this present Church Age...The rising of the morning star pictures Christ's coming for His saints. Thus the sense of the passage is that we should always keep the prophetic word before us, treasuring it in our hearts, for it will serve as a light in this dark world until the age is ended and Christ appears in the clouds to take His waiting people home to heaven.”***

**Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)**

**Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.**

- [expand — imagery of the Word being a light in a dark world...]

*As we move into vs 20-21, Peter wants to assure believers that they can trust the Word of God...*

**20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,**

In this context, it seems best to understand the word **interpretation** as ***origin***...

***The Everyman's Bible Commentary says that this verse might be better translated, “no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own origination”...***

In other words, the writers of Scripture were not just making it up as they went along...

*And Peter spoke of this subject in His first letter — to see this, please turn to...*

### **1 Peter 1:10-12 (NKJV)**

**10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,**

**11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.**

**12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.**

- [expand — the prophets themselves did not fully understand what their prophecies *were* or *how* they would be fulfilled...]

*Please turn back to 2 Peter 1 as we move into vs...*

**21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**

*This verse clearly speaks of the inspiration of Scripture...*

In other words, the authors of the Scripture were not simply writing down whatever they felt like writing down...

- Instead, they were **moved by the Holy Spirit** as they spoke and wrote the Word of God...

*And it must be admitted that this was a mysterious process...*

God spoke through the authors of the Scripture and yet their individual personalities were not overwhelmed...[expand]

- Interestingly, the word **moved** here in vs 21 is also used for *the wind that moves a sailboat*...[expand]

*Paul uses slightly different imagery when writing on this subject in...*

## **2 Tim 3:16-17 (NKJV)**

**16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**

**17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

- [expand — inspiration — “God-breathed”...]

Now, before we move into our conclusion, it is important that we — as believers — ***choose to be followers of His Word***...

It is vital that we choose to live our lives not according to our ***own faulty desires*** but instead according to ***God’s faultless direction***...

*And we do this as we live lives of **habituation** and **invitation**...*

We practice habituation as followers of the Word by **seeking to understand the Bible** and then by **living our lives in accordance with what the Bible teaches**...

- [expand — start with obeying what you understand...]

And once we are on the road of **habituation**, we add **invitation**...

- As we seek to walk in obedience to God's instruction, we then invite others to join us...

We ask them to join us as we walk with the Lord — we encourage them with the truth that though it is a narrow road, there is always room for one more...

## **Conclusion**

*So as we close I will simply encourage you and encourage me to practice **habituation** and **invitation** as we seek to be **eyewitness of His majesty** and **followers of His Word**...*