

2 Peter 1:1a

- **Author:** Peter
- **Date:** Between 64-68 A.D. This letter was written shortly before the death of Peter at the hands of Nero.
- **Audience:** The elect exiles he had written to in 1 Peter which resided in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).
- **Themes:** The primary theme is addressing false teachers threatening the church. However, Peter will also address the growth in the life a Christian, the source of the words of God, the coming of the Lord, and growing in knowledge.

Verse 1

Peter states he is a bond-servant and an apostle. One is of the highest positions a Christian could ever have and the other is considered by all societies as the lowest position one could have.

Apostle=The apostle (meaning one sent out or sent by) was one of the highest positions and offices a Christian could have as the apostle was sent out by Jesus and was given apostolic authority. There were specific qualifications to be an apostle which are found in **Acts 1:21-26**. These qualifications included being present from the time of Christ's baptism and had to be an eyewitness to the resurrection of Jesus. Since apostles were sent by Jesus speaking on His behalf, those who received them received Jesus, but those who rejected them, rejected Jesus. You can't reject the one Jesus sends and accept Jesus.

- **John 13:20** Truly, truly I say to you, the one who ^[u]receives anyone I send, ^[a]receives Me; and the one who ^[u]receives Me ^[u]receives Him who sent Me."

The same thing applies to Jesus. You can't reject the one God sends (Jesus) and accept God (the Father).

- **1 John 2:23** Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.
- **John 5:23** so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Jesus is the cornerstone of God's household. However, the foundation of God's household was built on the prophets and the apostles. There are no longer any prophets of apostles as the foundation only gets laid one time. For someone to claim they are a prophet or apostle now would be the same person that Peter is warning about in this letter.

- **Ephesians 2:19-22** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the ^[a]saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy ^[u]temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Bond-servant= This word comes from the Greek word δούλος (*doulos*) which means slave. Peter is an apostle, but also a slave of Christ. Paul also references himself as a bond-servant of Christ (**Romans 1:1**, **Philippians 1:1**, and **Titus 1:1**). He also addresses believers to live as bond-slaves of God in **1 Peter 2:16**. Before Christ, we are slaves of sin and held in bondage to do the will of the devil. However, when the Son sets us free, we are free indeed (**John 8:32,36**). When we are set free by Christ, we then become slaves. We become slaves of Christ and are for the first time, truly free. The world looks at their ability to sin as freedom, but it is true slavery. The believer has become a slave to Christ and this slavery brings freedom. We are never free until we become slaves of God.

Romans 6: 15-23 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin ^[u]resulting in death, or of obedience ^[u]resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that ^[u]though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, ^[u]resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, ^[u]resulting in sanctification.²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ Therefore what ^[u]benefit were you then ^[u]deriving ^[u]from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you ^[u]derive your ^[a]benefit, ^[u]resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Galatians 5:1** It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Since we are slaves, we are not our own, but rather have been purchased. The Greek word kurios means “Lord” of “master.” The English word for “church” is derived for the Greek word “kuriokos” which means “belonging the Lord or to the master.

- **1 Corinthians 6: 19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a ^[k]temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from ^[l]God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Received a faith

The elect have received a faith, not mustered up a faith from within their unregenerate heart. Faith is a gift from God.

- **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[a]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
- **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake
- **Romans 11:29** for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Regeneration or being “born again” precedes faith. Regeneration is a supernatural act from God and not by our flesh. The Holy Spirit invades the souls of the elect and changes the disposition of their minds, souls, and wills toward the things God which they previously hated. He removes the heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh. The one who was dead in sins and trespasses is raised to spiritual life. It is a sovereign act of God. In regeneration we are changed and are new creatures (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). This is not turning over a new leaf, but a life changing event by the supernatural work of God. The one who previously hated God and was hostile now begins to have affection and love for Christ. We are as passive in our spiritual birth as we are in a natural birth. Being born again or regenerated is initiated and performed by God and God alone. In the parable of the sower in **Luke 8:4-15**, there are 4 different soils mentioned. This is the state of the hearts prior to hearing the Word of God which is the seed in this parable. How did the good soil become good soil before hearing and receiving the Word of God? The good soil is good because God had tilled and cultivated the soil in regeneration. He prepared and changed the soil to be ready to receive the Gospel with gladness and sincerity. When the heart that has been regenerated (good soil) hears the Word of God and the Gospel (the seed), faith springs forth and results in salvation and justification.

Their common misconception is that we have to have faith to be born again. This is incorrect in view of the Biblical doctrine of regeneration. We have faith as a result of being born again.

If you have faith in Christ, then at some point in your life, God Himself sought you, found you, and caused you to be born again which is a necessity to see and to enter the kingdom of God (**John 3:3-7**). This is a gift of God!

- **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Of the same kind

Peter is saying that all Christians have received the same gift of faith as he and all the other apostles had received. This faith does not discriminate based on age, rank, sex, socioeconomic status, etc. There is no such thing as a second class faith. The same faith that all the people in the Bible received, we have received as well. In **Ephesians 4:5**, Paul writes there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

By His righteousness

These exiles and all Christians have received this faith as a gift and are justified by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them through faith alone. They have received an equal faith with no regards to age, gender, sex, economic class, etc. Every believer has salvation and justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ applied to them.

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- **Philippians 3:8-9** More than that, I count all things to be loss ^[a]in view of the surpassing value of ^[b]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, ^[c]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,
- **Romans 3:26** for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who ^[a]has faith in Jesus.