

A Study of The Epistle of 2nd Peter
Theme: “Grow in Grace and Knowledge”

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.
Pastor David R. Nehrenz – www.tlcnorman.org
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BIBLE TEXT

(2 Peter 1:21)

(21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man,
but men spoke **from God as** they were carried along by **the Holy Spirit**.

STUDY NOTES

NOTE:

“Scripture”= script of words written down. Jesus had the same Old Testament that we have and accepted Genesis to Malachi as the very recorded and inspired Word of God.

“Inerrancy” = without error. “Inspiration” = breathed in by God

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**(Dt. 18:18-22; 2 Sam 23:2; Lk 1:70; John 5:39-47; 20:19-23; Acts 1:16; 3:18; 28:25;
Rom 16:25-27; Eph 2:13-22; 3:1-6; 2 Tim 3:14-17; Heb 1:1-4; Rev 22:17-21)**

LUTHER’S WORKS – VOLUME 30

20. *First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy **of Scripture** is a matter of one’s own interpretation,*

21. *because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by **the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

Here St. Peter attacks false doctrine. Since you know that we have **God’s Word**, he says, cling to this knowledge, and do not be misled by other false teachers, even though they come with the allegation that they, too, have **the Holy Spirit**. For “first of all you must understand this”—he will state the rest later—“that no **prophecy of Scripture** is a matter of one’s own interpretation.” Be governed by this, and do not think that you can interpret **Scripture** with your own reason and wisdom.

... The **Holy Spirit Himself** must expound Scripture. Otherwise it must remain unexpounded. Now if anyone of the saintly fathers can show that his interpretation is based on **Scripture**, and if **Scripture** proves that this is the way it should be interpreted, then the interpretation is right. If this is not the case, I must not believe him.

... But we can prove that **Christ and faith are the Rock**, as St. Paul declares. This explanation is correct, for we are sure that it has not been devised by man but has been drawn from **God’s Word**. Now what is written and proclaimed in the prophets, says Peter, has not been invented or devised by man; but the pious and holy men have said it as they were moved by **the Holy Spirit**.

“But why does he say: “We have a sure prophetic Word”? Answer: I believe indeed that henceforth we shall not have prophets like those the Jews had in times past in the Old Testament. But a prophet must really be one who preaches about **Jesus Christ**. Therefore although many prophets in the Old Testament foretold future things, they really came, and were sent by **God**, to proclaim **the Christ**.

Now those who believe in **Christ** are all prophets; for they have the real and chief qualification prophets should have, even though they do not all have the gift of foretelling the future. For just as through faith we are brothers of **the Lord Christ**, kings, and priests, so we are also all prophets through **Christ**. For we can all state what pertains to salvation, **God’s glory**, and a Christian life. In addition, we can also talk about future events insofar as it is necessary for us to know about them. For example, we can say that the Last Day will come and that we will rise from the dead. Furthermore, we understand all Scripture. Paul also speaks about this in 1 Cor. 14:31: “For you can all prophesy one by one.”

Thus Peter now says: We **have a prophetic Word** that is sure in itself. Just see to it that it is sure for you. “You will do well to pay attention to this.” It is as if he were saying: It will be necessary for you to hold fast to it. For the Gospel does the very thing that happens when one is caught in a house in the middle of the night when it is pitch-dark. Then it would be necessary to provide a light until daybreak, so that he could see. Thus the Gospel is really in the midst of night and darkness.

For all human reason is sheer error and blindness. Thus the world, too, is nothing else than a realm of darkness. In this darkness **God** has now ignited a light, namely, **the Gospel**. In this light we can see and walk as long as we dwell on earth, until the dawn comes and the day breaks.

Thus this text also vigorously assails all human doctrine. For since the **Word of God is** the light in a pitch-dark place, it is established that everything else is darkness. For if there were a light apart from **the Word**, St. Peter would not speak this way. Therefore pay no regard to the intelligence of people who teach something else, no matter how impressive they pretend that it is. Where you are not aware of **God’s Word**, do not doubt that this is sheer darkness. Do not be troubled by their statement that they have **the Holy Spirit**. How can they have **God’s Spirit** if they do not have God’s Word?

Therefore they do nothing else than call darkness light and “put darkness for light,” as Is. 5:20 states. It is **God’s Word, the Gospel**, that we have been redeemed from death, sin, and hell through **Christ**. He who hears this has lighted the light and the lamp in our hearts to enable us to see. **The Gospel** illumines us and teaches what we should know. But where it is missing, we rush in and want to find the road to heaven with a self-invented way of life and self-invented works. Concerning this you cannot judge and see by means of your light that it is darkness.

Consequently, since they do not want to have or accept the light, they must remain in darkness and blindness; for the light teaches us everything we should know and everything that is necessary for our salvation. This the world does not recognize by means of its wisdom and reason. And we must have the light and cling to it until the Last Day. Then we shall no longer need **the Word**, just as artificial light is extinguished when the day dawns.”

LIFE APPLICATION

1. If Scripture is from men who spoke from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit, then why is it absolutely essential to hold onto the verbal inspiration of the Bible as the Word of God?
2. Why do we also ignore and condemn self-proclaimed prophets and pastors who claim to have direct revelation from God and say things like, “the Lord told me or the Lord spoke to me...?”