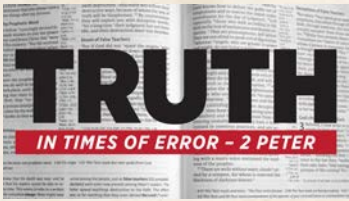


# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

The Witness of Hope

### Speaker:

Steve Heitland

### Date:

November 13, 2022

### Scriptures:

2 Peter 1:16-21

**Theme:** Trust the witnesses so you live increasingly for Christ's return.

**Introduction:** Children often long for a gift at Christmastime, fixing their hopes and dreams on a gift that will promise true and lasting happiness. The Apostle Peter, as a loving grandfather, offers his spiritual children and grandchildren in the church the greatest gift imaginable: Jesus Christ. He works to remind the church of Jesus during his lifetime, and even after he dies.

Peter gives 3 witnesses to establish the truth of the gospel:

### 1. The testimony of truth, not myth (16)

Peter's first witness is the truth. The Apostles did not make up the myth of Christianity, as the false teachers charged. They testified to what they saw and experienced.

### 2. The testimony of those who were there (17-18)

Peter switches pronouns from 1<sup>st</sup>-person singular ("I") in vv. 12-15, to 1<sup>st</sup>-person plural ("we") in vv. 16ff. He is one of multiple witnesses to what he is sharing. Peter points to the transfiguration as proof of Jesus' divinity and of the promise of his return. Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT promises (Ps 2:7; Isa 42:1). He gives 3 kinds of testimony: eyewitness, the Father's testimony, and earwitness. He, James, and John were there and can testify to the truth of Jesus' identity. The multitude of witnesses that Peter provides are intended to ground our confidence in Jesus and his gospel.

### 3. The testimony of those who waited in hope (19-21)

Peter adds a 4<sup>th</sup> kind of testimony: the prophetic testimony of Scripture. Those promises are not created by human initiative, but ultimately come from God himself. Scripture is written by men who were 'carried along by the Holy Spirit.' Peter calls us to pay attention to the word of God until Judgment Day. It is a lamp shining into the darkness, giving us wisdom and hope. Judgment Day will also be the day when "the morning star rises in your hearts." Jesus' people will get to see him face-to-face and to rejoice in all that he's done for us.

### Questions:

1. Are you growing in your enjoyment and appreciation of the gospel, or are you bored or uninterested?
2. How can you pursue growth in understanding and applying the gospel?
3. What role does Jesus' return have in your hope from day to day?