



THE
WORD
WATER
WAY

A PATH BACK TO PURPOSE,
WITH URGENCY

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my parents, Rich and Pearl Ellsworth, whose lives first taught me what it means to follow Jesus. They laid the foundation of faith that shaped my earliest steps and modeled a Christ centered life with humility, strength, and grace. Through their love, their consistency, and their unwavering trust in God, they showed me that discipleship begins at home long before it is taught in any study. Their example continues to guide my walk with Christ and inspires the heart behind these pages.

Biblical Reference

*All Scripture quotations in this study are taken from the
English Standard Version.*



Week One:
The Word, the Water, and the Way:
A Path Back to Purpose,
with Urgency:



Study Objective:

Over the next eight weeks we will explore 2nd Peter chapter 3, the first chapter of 1st John, and chapters 1 and 14 of John's Gospel. If you are not familiar with these passages, please take time to read through them prior to starting the study. Through these Scriptures and this study our objective is to create more urgency in our walk with Christ. You are encouraged to read individual "The Word, The Water and The Way" chapters during the first part of the week,

Before You Begin: A Roadmap for the Journey

This study is designed as a spiritual journey, one that unfolds across eight weeks (this is week one), each building upon the last. Before diving in, it is helpful to step back and view the entire path ahead. This roadmap will help you, whether you are studying alone or leading a group, to see how the themes of The Word, The Water, and The Way work together as a cohesive spiritual process.

WEEK Two: A Call to Wake Up

We confront the spiritual complacency of our age with Peter's urgent reminder that creation, judgment, and redemption are all grounded in the Word, the Water, and the Way, three divine realities that demand our attention and our action.

WEEK Three: By the Word of God

We reflect on the power, permanence, and person of the Word, Jesus Christ, who not only spoke creation into being but also calls each of us into new life through His voice of truth.

WEEK Four: Who Really Is in Control?

Through the paradox of water's beauty and brutality, we are reminded of God's absolute sovereignty and invited to surrender our illusion of control to His authority and grace.

WEEK Five: The Christ and Water

Before walking the Way, we pause to see how Jesus' life was intimately woven with water, from birth to baptism,

from calming storms to surrendering in Gethsemane, revealing His deep empathy and divine power.

WEEK Six: Walking “The Way”

We step into the narrow, often difficult path of discipleship, learning that to follow Jesus is not about ease but about daily obedience, purposeful endurance, and living in the light.

WEEK Seven: Our Helper along the Way

As we walk the Way, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit empowers, guides, convicts, and comforts us, enabling a Spirit filled journey grounded in God's presence and power.

WEEK Eight: A Call to Remember, Respond, and Return

We are challenged to integrate all we have learned, letting the Word shape us, the Water cleanse us, and the Way direct us, responding with urgency, humility, and wholehearted surrender.

This is not a study of abstract theology. It is a call to live awake, intentional, and empowered by truth. Let the weeks ahead guide you deeper into the story God is writing in your life.

What are three hopes do you have for this study?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

-Notes-

Week Two:
A Call to Wake Up



Remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days

2 Peter 2-3

In 2 Peter 3:5, the apostle confronts those who doubt God's promises by reminding them of a foundational truth (stop now and go back and read 2nd Peter 3). He writes that "the heavens existed long ago and that the earth was formed out of water and through water by the Word of God". This brief sentence carries the weight of divine history. It reaches back to creation, pulls the reader into the present moment, and reminds them that God has been actively shaping the world, humanity, and redemptive history from the very beginning.

Peter was not offering poetry. He was offering perspective. The early church was beginning to drift. Some believers were becoming numb to eternal reality. Others were quietly questioning whether God's promises were delayed or diminished. And surrounding them were scoffers who challenged the seriousness of the Christian message. Their posture was dismissive. Their tone carried that familiar cultural shrug, the same one echoed in modern

skepticism and the modern prophet (the Joker). “Why so serious”. Why insist that faith matters. Why hold tightly to promises that seem slow to arrive. Why live with urgency when the world appears unchanged.

Peter refused to let complacency win. He wrote with pastoral clarity and prophetic urgency. He confronted spiritual drift not by amplifying fear but by awakening memory. Remember what God has done. Remember who God is. Remember who you are. Remember the story you belong to. Remember that you were created through the Word, shaped through the Water, and called to walk in the Way.

These are not abstract theological categories. They are a pattern God wove into creation. They reveal His heart, His authority, His intention for humanity. Through the Holy Spirit, The Word, The Water, and The Way form a dynamic and deeply personal relationship between God and His people. They guide us toward clarity, conviction, and purpose. They awaken urgency in our efforts to live as image bearers of God.

And so we begin here, with remembering, with returning, with realigning our minds and hearts to the truth that has shaped God's people from the beginning.

The Crisis Beneath the Surface: How Complacency Forms

Peter addresses a community under pressure. The atmosphere surrounding these believers was not one of open persecution but of subtle erosion. It was not the crisis of the sword but the crisis of spiritual slumber. And that kind of crisis has always been more dangerous. It creeps in quietly. It disguises itself as normalcy, routine, or harmless distraction.

Peter describes the people undermining the faith as scoffers. Not intellectual giants. Not philosophical heavyweights. Not violent enemies. Simply people who mocked the urgency of holiness and the expectation of Christ's return. Their ridicule was not clever. It was casual. "Ever since the fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it always has." Nothing changes. Nothing matters.

Their message was ancient in its origin and modern in its expression. It was the same whisper the serpent introduced in Eden when he questioned Eve with the devastating

simplicity of a single sentence. “Did God really say”. The enemy rarely defeats believers through open assault. Most often it is through suggestion. A whisper becomes a thought. A thought becomes a narrative. A narrative becomes a belief. And left unchallenged, a belief becomes a pathway to destruction.

Spiritual complacency is a slow drift, not a sudden fall. It begins with a shrug. It grows through silence. It matures into surrender. It pulls us from purpose, from conviction, and from the life God has called us to live. Peter sees it happening and speaks directly into it.

Do not forget. Do not drift. Do not overlook what is true.

He writes to “stir up their sincere minds”. His language is relational, not confrontational. It is the voice of a shepherd who knows his people and wants to wake them gently but firmly. Remember the prophets. Remember the commands of Christ. Remember that time is not as abundant as you assume. The delay in Christ’s return is not divine hesitation. It is divine mercy. God is patient, not indifferent. God is purposeful, not passive.

In Peter’s day and in ours, this message is needed. We live in an age overflowing with distraction. Our modern

pace leaves very little room for stillness or discernment. We rush, we scroll, we hurry from one obligation to the next. Life becomes reactive rather than reflective. And under the noise, something in us longs for meaning. We crave clarity. We want purpose that runs deeper than surface level living.

Peter insists that such clarity begins with remembering who God is and who He has made us to be.

The Pattern: Formed by the Word, Through the Water, and Into the Way

After addressing complacency, Peter begins to do something profound. He ties the spiritual urgency of the present moment to the ancient pattern established by God at creation. He uses language that echoes Genesis. “The world was formed out of water and through water by the Word of God”.

This is not accidental phrasing. Peter understood that God embedded a pattern in creation that also serves as the pattern for redemption and discipleship. When we trace the biblical story, the same pattern emerges again and again.

The Word initiates.

The Water transforms.

The Way directs.

This triad is not merely symbolic. It is structural. It is the divine rhythm of how God forms life, forms identity, and forms disciples.

The Word Initiates

In the beginning, God spoke. His Word flooded the void with light, order, beauty, and purpose. The universe does not originate from chaos but from command. God's voice did not describe what already existed. *It created what did not yet exist.* Creation is an act of divine articulation. And humanity, unique among all created things, is formed through the Word and formed for the Word.

John echoes this when he declares that Christ is the Word. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who took on flesh and dwelled among us. The Word who not only creates but also reveals. He reveals truth, identity, purpose, and the nature of God Himself. John 1:1

“The Word is living and active”, Hebrews 4:12 It cuts through confusion and exposes the intentions of the heart. It awakens us, convicts us, comforts us, and aligns us with reality. In a world full of competing narratives, the Word grounds us in truth. It reminds us that our origin is not dust

alone but divine breath. The Word always initiates the work of God in our lives.

The Water Transforms

After the Word speaks, the Water moves. In Genesis, the Spirit hovered over the waters, preparing creation for formation. Water becomes the environment through which new life emerges. Later, in judgment, water becomes the tool God uses to cleanse the earth. In the Exodus, water becomes the passage from slavery into freedom. In baptism, water becomes the marker of rebirth, similarly our liberation from death to life.

Water is a paradox. It nourishes and destroys. It cleanses and confronts. It brings life and brings death. It washes away what must go so that what God is building can emerge. Water is never passive in Scripture. It symbolizes the deep transformation God works in us. Transformation that is not gentle but powerful. Transformation that strips away the old identity so that the new self in Christ can rise into being. Through the Water we learn surrender. We learn dependence. We learn that transformation is not cosmetic but spiritual. It changes us to the core.

The Way Directs

Once the Word has spoken identity into us and the Water has washed us into new life, the Way becomes the path we walk. Jesus does not simply show us the way. He is the Way. He is truth embodied. He is life expressed. To follow Him is not to adopt a belief system but to adopt a lifestyle shaped by His presence, His priorities, His practices, and His purpose.

The Way is not a destination. It is a direction. It is a daily walk. It requires discipline but is saturated with grace. It asks us to deny ourselves, but it fills us with a life that self-centeredness can never offer. The Way shapes our character. It forms us into people who reflect Christ consistently rather than occasionally.

The Word initiates. The Water transforms. The Way directs. Together, they form the foundation of discipleship.

Why This Matters Today: The Stakes of Forgetting Who We Are

This study matters because we forget. Humanity has always struggled with spiritual amnesia. We forget who God is. We forget what He has done. We forget who we are. We forget we were created through the Word and for the Word.

We forget transformation requires surrender. We forget discipleship is a daily walk, not a one time decision.

The world invites us to drift. Culture rewards distraction. Convenience pulls us from discipline. And over time, routine replaces passion. Comfort replaces conviction. Numbness replaces urgency. Faith becomes something we reference rather than something we live. But Scripture refuses to let us settle. It insists that we were made for more. We were created as image bearers of God. Not consumers of religious ideas but carriers of divine purpose. Not people who survive the world but people who transform it through love, truth, humility, and obedience.

Peter's call echoes across time. This is not a season for halfhearted faith. This is a season to wake up. A season to realign. A season to return to the pattern God has woven into creation and redemption.

Hear the Word.

Enter the Water.

Walk in the Way.

A Personal Reflection Moment: Returning to What Is True

When I consider Peter's message, I cannot escape its personal implications. This study is not something I write from a distance. It is something I need as much as anyone. I know my own patterns. I know how easily I am pulled toward comfort. I know how often I choose distraction over discipline. I know what it means to drift subtly rather than rebel openly.

I have become, at times, a far looker. Someone who appears faithful from a distance but whose spiritual integrity weakens under close examination. My routines can mimic devotion while my heart quietly settles for ease. But the Spirit does not expose this to shame me. He exposes it to free me. To call me back to who I was created to be. To remind me that intimacy with God is not found in convenience but in surrender.

This is why I write this study. This is why I walk this path. This is why I need The Word, The Water, and The Way. I want to walk in a manner worthy of the calling I have received. I want to live as an image bearer of God. I want to reflect His character not occasionally but consistently.

And I believe you want this too.

A Call to Urgency: The Moment Matters

The stakes are eternal. The moment is now. Peter's urgency is not fear based. It is hope based. God is patient. God is merciful. God desires that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. The patience of God is an invitation, not an excuse. It is meant to draw us deeper, not lull us to sleep.

This is not a time to coast. This is a time to wake up. To shake off the complacency that has crept into our habits. To reject the distraction that has dulled our hunger for holiness. To remember that God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. To step forward into the life He has already prepared for us.

We begin by returning to the process God has always used.

Hear and recognize the power of The Word to create new reality.

Embrace the transformation of The Water, even when it stretches or confronts you.

Walk in The Way of Christ with renewed discipline and fresh dependence.

“To whom much is given, much is required” Luke 12:48.
And we have been given everything.

So let us begin here, with open hearts, with sincere minds, with a willingness to let God speak, wash, and lead. The journey ahead will not be comfortable. But comfort was never the point. Transformation is the point. Holiness is the point. Jesus is the point. And He is worth it.

Week Two: Devotional Series

Call to Wake Up

Day Two

Spiritual drift rarely begins with rebellion; it begins with comfort. Over time, routine replaces attentiveness, and conviction dulls without resistance. God's call to wake up is an invitation to notice what has quietly shifted and return to intentional faith before complacency becomes routine.

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:1; Romans 13:11

Question for the Day: Where has comfort quietly replaced spiritual attentiveness in my life?

Day Three

When we forget what God has done, faith slowly loses its footing. Memory anchors belief, reminding us God has been faithful before and will be faithful again. Forgetfulness, however, creates room for doubt and spiritual passivity to grow unnoticed.

Scripture: Psalm 103:2; Deuteronomy 8:2

Question: What specific faithfulness of God do I need to remember today?

Day Four

Faith rarely collapses through rebellion; it erodes through neglect. What we fail to tend weakens over time, even when belief remains sincere. Spiritual attentiveness must be a practice or it will quietly fade.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1; Proverbs 4:23

Question: What spiritual practice have I allowed to slip through neglect?

Day Five

Urgency is not panic; it is clarity. When eternity is kept in view, distractions lose their power and priorities sharpen. God calls His people to live awake, alert, and fully present to what truly matters.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15–16; Colossians 3:2

Question: What would change if I lived today with eternity clearly in view?

Day Six

God's timing reflects patience, not indifference. His kindness is meant to lead us toward repentance and

transformation, not to excuse delay. Mercy is an invitation to move, not remain unchanged.

Scripture: Romans 2:4; Isaiah 55:6

Question: Have I mistaken God's patience for permission to delay change?

Day Seven

God formed creation with intention, order, and care, and He forms human lives the same way. You are not accidental, forgotten, or random. Every day you live is shaped within His purposeful design.

Scripture: Genesis 1:31; Psalm 139:13–16

Question: Do I live as someone who truly believes God formed my life intentionally?