

2 Peter 1:12-15

¹²Therefore I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are established in the truth you now have. ¹³I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of my body, ¹⁴because I know that this tent will soon be laid aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵And I will make every effort to ensure that after my departure, you will be able to recall these things at all times.

Berean Study Bible

¹²Therefore I will always remind you of these things,
even though you understand them,
and are established in the truth you now have.
¹³I consider it right, as long as I am in this tent, to refresh your memory.
¹⁴I understand that the laying aside of my tent is imminent,
as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.
¹⁵And so, I will be diligent to ensure that after my departure,
you will always be able to remember these things.

My own translation

1

Don't forget to remember. 2 Peter 1:12-15

Remind my memory. 1:12

My knowledge is to be internal. 12a "you know them"

My knowledge is to be integral. 12b "established in the truth"

Refresh my memory. 1:13-14

I live a life that is temporary. 13 "I live in the tent"

I live a life that is eternal. 14 "this tent will soon be laid aside"

Recall my memory. 1:15

I will be a memory. 15a "after my departure"

I will leave a memory. 15b "you will be able to recall"

2

Be prepared. 2 Peter 1:12-15

Prepare for today. 1:12

Prepare by back to basics. 12 “always remind you”

Prepare by building on basics. 12 “established”

Prepare for tomorrow. 1:13-14

Prepare for your funeral. 14a “this tent will soon be laid aside,”

Prepare for your forever. 14b “as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear”

Prepare for the day after. 1:15

I will leave everything behind. 15a “ensure that after my departure”

I want to leave something behind. 15b “able to recall these things”

3

Getting ready to go. 2 Peter 1:12-15

Setting my priorities. 1:12

My refreshment is in God’s Word. 12 “remind”

My stability is in God’s Word. 12 “established”

Ready for my passing. 1:13-14

I’ve only got a tent. 13-14 “the tent of my body”

I’m running out of time. 14 “soon be laid aside”

Establishing a permanence. 1:15

Prepare early. 15 “make every effort”

Prepare eternally. 15 “after my departure”

4

Reflections on growing older. 2 Peter 1:12-15

Older people have much wisdom to give. 1:12

What they know needs to be told. 12 “remind you of these things”

What they know is not new. 12 “even though you know them”

Older people have less time to live. 1:13-14

They are aware of their failing tent. 13-14 “the tent of my body”

They are aware of their fading time. 14 “soon be laid aside”

Older people have hopes for the future. 1:15

They want to be useful, now. 15 “make every effort”

They want to leave a legacy. 15 “after my departure”

Growing old gracefully. 2 Peter 1:12-15

Graceful people speak enthusiastically, but allow for the knowledge of others. 1:12

Graceful people speak enthusiastically. 12a "I will always remind you"

Graceful people allow for knowledge... 12b "even though you know them"

Graceful people anticipate hopefully, but allow for one's journey to end. 1:13-14

Graceful people anticipate hopefully. 13a "as long as I live in the tent"

Graceful people allow for the end. 14a "this tent will soon be laid aside"

Graceful people give generously, but allow for the path of others. 1:15

Graceful people give generously. 15a "I will make every effort"

Graceful people allow for the path others. 15b "you will be able to recall"

The three Rs. 2 Peter 1:12-15

The traditional 3 Rs are reading, 'righting, and 'rithmetic.

Remind my mind. 1:12 "always remind you"

I know it is true, when I build on it. 12b "established in the truth"

I know it is true, when I hold to it. 12b "the truth you now have"

Refresh my heart. 1:13-14 "right to refresh"

My heart refreshes others. 13 "it is right to refresh your memory"

My heart outlives my tent. 14 "this tent will soon be laid aside"

Recall my future. 1:15 "able to recall"

What I need to know. 15b "recall these things"

When I need to know. 15b "at all times"

Choose the best church. 2 Peter 1:12-15

A good church will reinforce the basics. 1:12b

I need reminding. 12b "always remind you of these things you know"

I need roots. 12b "established in the truth you now have"

A good church makes good use of time. 1:13-14

I need mental care. 13a "it is right to refresh your memory"

I need physical care. 13b "as long as I live in the tent of my body"

A good church emphasises the Bible. 1:15

I need support. 15a "I will make every effort to ensure"

I need Scripture. 15b "you will be able to recall these things at all times"

8

Making my mark. 2 Peter 1:12-15

I can add to what you've got. 1:12b

Stretch your mind. 12b "always remind you of these things you know"

Stabilise your mind. 12b "established in the truth you now have"

I can give only while I can. 1:13-14

Refresh the mind. 13a "it is right to refresh your memory"

Remain in the body. 13b "as long as I live in the tent of my body"

I can give, even when I'm gone. 1:15

Strive for myself. 15a "I will make every effort to ensure"

Strive for others. 15b "you will be able to recall these things at all times"

9

Search for significance. 2 Peter 1:12-15

Significant people have something to give. 1:12b

Give frequently. 12b "always remind you of these things you know"

Give quality. 12b "established in the truth you now have"

Significant people keep on giving. 1:13-14

Give to the mind. 13a "it is right to refresh your memory"

Give with the body. 13b "as long as I live in the tent of my body"

Significant people never stop giving. 1:15

Give with a passion. 15a "I will make every effort to ensure"

Give after my passing. 15b "you will be able to recall these things at all times"

Other possible titles

You must remember this

The legacy I leave
Famous last words
Live well and die better
A time to live, and a time to die.
Making fond memories
Sowing seeds
Cramming for the final exam

Quotes and illustrations

Quotes about reminding (others) and remembering (self)

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." Genesis 9:12-16

Then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Deuteronomy 6:12

And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. Deuteronomy 8:2

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. Psalm 77:11

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, Isaiah 46:9

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church. 1 Corinthians 4:17

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour spoken by your apostles. 2 Peter 3:1-2

Quotes about growing older, or living longer

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. Job 7:6

For we were born yesterday and know nothing; our days on earth are but a shadow. Job 8:9

Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble. Like a flower, he comes forth, then withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure... A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed. Job 14:1-2, 5

When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet. Psalm 8:3-6

Show me, O LORD, my end and the measure of my days. Let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. Psalm 39:4-5

My days are like lengthening shadows, and I wither away like grass. But You, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; Your renown endures to all generations. Psalm 102:11-12

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He is mindful that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the loving devotion of the LORD extends to those who fear Him, and His righteousness to their children's children. Psalm 103:13-17

LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow. Psalm 144:3-4

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Matthew 6:27

You do not even know what will happen tomorrow! What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. James 4:14

Quotes about dying well

The death of Peter.

¹⁸Truly, truly, I tell you, when you were young, you dressed yourself and walked where you wanted; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And after He had said this, He told him, “Follow Me.” John 21:18-19, BSB

The death of Polycarp

The document *The Martyrdom of Polycarp* is an eye-witness account, recording the arrest of the elderly Polycarp, and his death at the hands of the Romans. It is the earliest chronicle of a martyrdom outside the New Testament.

Polycarp was an old man, at least 86 years old, and probably the last surviving person to have known one of Jesus’ apostles. Polycarp had been a disciple of John, the Apostle. The Proconsul asked him whether he was Polycarp. On hearing that he was, he tried to persuade him to apostatize, saying, “Have respect for your old age, swear by the fortune of Caesar. Repent, and say, ‘Down with the Atheists!’” [Romans regarded Christians as atheists because they would not acknowledge Caesar as a god.] Polycarp looked grimly at the wicked heathen multitude in the stadium, and gesturing towards them, he said, “Down with the Atheists!” “Swear,” urged the Proconsul, “reproach Christ, and I will set you free.” “86 years have I have served him,” Polycarp declared, “and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?”

Greek commentary

¹²Therefore I will always **remind** you of these things...

ὑπομνήσκω is the Present Infinitive Active of the verb ὑπομνήσκω [Strong's 5279]. This is a compound word consisting of the prefix preposition ὑπό [Strong's 5259] meaning ‘under’; plus the verb μνήσκομαι [Strong's 3403] meaning ‘remember, recall, recollect, remind’.

This verb, ὑπομνήσκω, therefore means, ‘remember by thinking deeply, memories that are never forgotten’.

This word occurs only 7 times in the Greek New Testament, including only once in Peter’s letters, here in 2 Peter 1:12.

The noun form of this same word occurs in the next verse.

¹³I consider it right, as long as I am in this tent, to **refresh your memory**.

ὑπομνήσει is the Dative Feminine Singular of the noun ὑπόμνησις [Strong's 5280]. This is a compound word consisting of the prefix preposition ὑπό [Strong's 5259] meaning 'under'; plus the verb μνησκόμαι [Strong's 3403] meaning 'remember, recall, recollect, remind'.

This noun, ὑπομνήσει, therefore means, 'remember by thinking deeply, memories that are never forgotten'. This word occurs only 3 times in the Greek New Testament, including twice in 2 Peter, that 67% of all occurrences. (The other occurrence is 2 Timothy 1:5, "I will **never forget** the sincere faith")

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by **way of reminder**, 2 Peter 1:13, ESV

...I am stirring up your sincere mind by **way of reminder**, 2 Peter 3:1b, ESV

A slightly different word occurs in the end of verse 15.

...you will always be able to **remember** these things.

μνήμην is the Accusative Feminine Singular of the noun μνήμη [Strong's 3420]. This feminine noun occurs only here in Scripture. Whereas, the noun form, μνημεῖον [Strong's 3419] occurs 40 times in the Greek New Testament.

Both gender forms, and their cognates, mean 'a memorial, monument, sepulchre, tomb, a remembrance, an object that triggers memories'.

¹²Therefore I will always remind you of these things, even though you **understand** them, οἶδα a common verb occurring 319 times in the Greek New Testament, related to "seeing", meaning know by, 'being aware, behold, consider, perceive, appreciate, comprehend'.

Music and songs

Songs about the Bible, v12, 15

I believe in Jesus
So many books
The Lord has yet more light and truth
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

Songs about choosing where to spend eternity

Come, now is the time... gladly choose You now.
Find us faithful
Is your burden heavy... Reach out to Jesus

Jesus is the answer
Salt and light

Songs about going to Heaven

A time for every purpose under heaven
Heaven is a wonderful place
I've got a mansion just over the hilltop
I've got a home in Gloryland
This world is not my home

Songs about leaving a legacy

Believer indeed
To everything turn, turn, turn
You have been a shelter Lord, to every generation

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Why do you think death is a topic that is rarely discussed in public, but is openly mentioned in the Bible?
 2. What would you like to happen at your funeral; and why?
 3. Your Last Will and Testament will pass on objects, but how do you pass on attributes?
 4. After your passing, what are three things you would like others to remember about you?
 5. How can we live in the light of eternity, but do so without becoming morbid or sad?
 6. In what ways does Jesus determine our views of life, and death, and life after death?
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