

July 5, 2026

A Quick Pit Stop of Remembrance

2 Peter 1:12-13 New Living Translation

Therefore, - - I will always remind you about these things - even though you already know them - and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught ... And it is only right that I should - keep on reminding you - as long as I live.

Why did Peter feel a reminder was so important?

Peter wrote this letter knowing he was about to die – as he shared that fact in verse 14 ... So, this was not a casual reminder – it was a dying apostle's final act of love toward people he had poured his life into ... He wasn't reminding them – because they had completely forgotten his teachings ... He was reminding them – because he understood something about human nature – that we all know to be true.

Truth – that is not regularly stirred up – goes dormant over time ... Truth isn't lost – nor rejected – it simply becomes inactive – and is stored as simply data / head knowledge – void of all feelings ... Why does this occur? ... Because what captures your attention – captures you ... And what captures your attention fires you up ... So, if your focus isn't remaining on truth – it will become dormant – and in need of stirring up.

Let me remind you of a reality I will dig into shortly ... This earthly realm is a master at capturing your attention ... How this realm is packaged and marketed to humanity is nothing short of magnificent ... The enemy of our soul has learned well – concerning how to keep humanity fixated upon the things of this world ... John clearly reminded us of this reality in:

1John 2:15 Message

Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father.

So, this morning – this weekend that we celebrate our country’s 250th birthday ... I want to put you into remembrance of a few key principles – that we have already discovered along our journey.

Let me Remind you of your Destination

Romans 8:29 Mirror Translation

For those He foreknew - - He also predestined - - to be conformed to the exact image - - of His Son.

He Foreknew

Before you ever took your first breath – before you ever took your first step – before you ever consciously discovered there was a God – He knew you ... In fact, before you were even conceived – He knew you ... Catch this – He didn’t just know about you ... This knowing is much more than an omniscience – theological – concept ... God has a deep – intimate and personal knowledge of you – that existed before time itself ... The journey you are on right now – isn’t because you chose to follow Him ... It is the unfolding of a divine plan – that He set in motion – before you were even conceived in your mother’s womb.

Jeremiah 1:5 ... Psalm 139:13-16 ... Galatians 1:15

He Predestined

Predestined is a word that has caused more theological arguments than almost any other word in Scripture ... Now – let’s strip away all the theological debate and simply address the meaning of this word ... God decided in advance – where your whole life was going ... He has already determined your destination.

Psalms 37:23 Darby Translation

The steps of a man are established by Jehovah, and he delighteth in His way:

In fact, His working in your life was already pre-determined – before you ever made any decisions concerning Him ... His final destination point for you is – being conformed into the

exact image of his dear Son ... Let me throw this in here as a preview of what “awakening principle” I will start to address next week ... If you never awaken to the principle – “All things work together for your good” – tied in with – “God only has good plans for your life” ... This concept of predestination won’t be a blessing in your life – it will become your curse.

[Ephesians 1:4-5](#) ... [Ephesians 2:10](#) ... [Isaiah 46:10](#)

Be Conformed

Catch this – you have been predetermined to be conformed to the exact image of Christ ... Not a rough approximation – nor a close resemblance – but the exact image ... This is the most audacious phrase in the entire verse ... This is a bold declaration of the Almighty ... God has predetermined – what will happen in a life – that is completely yielded and surrendered to Him.

Let’s take a closer look at this word conformed ... Conformed means shaped – pressed into form – molded from the inside out – by the ongoing work of the Spirit – in a person who has said yes to the process ... It is likened to a potter – pressing you into the exact shape – He decided upon – before time ever began ... Catch this - - You are not trying to become something through your own religious effort or theological understanding ... You are becoming the exact image of Christ – formed by the Hands of His very Spirit.

[Isaiah 64:8](#) ... [Romans 9:20-21](#) ... [Philippians 1:6](#) ... [2 Corinthians 3:18](#)

Let me Remind you of Your Greatest Obstacles

Romans 12:2 Message

Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

So Well Adjusted - - Without even Thinking

This clearly addresses the issue of running on autopilot ... This is where your natural programming simply kicks in – and you function throughout the day without even thinking ... The truth be told – we have all become “well adjusted” to the culture in which we live – and we can fit “right in” – if you know what I mean ... Remember that old saying? ... If you were put on trial for being a Christian – would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Here Paul shares with us a powerful admonition ... “Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking” ... But notice – he doesn’t just leave us hanging ... He doesn’t just tell us what not to do ... He shares with us two powerful kingdom realities:

Fix your attention on God

Here is our golden thread – one of the most powerful awakening principles – you need to etch into your spirit man ... Ready? ... **What Captures your Attention – Will Capture You** ... Paul knowing this kingdom principle declares ... **“FIX your Attention on God!”**

When something is fixed – it means it is anchored – it is secured – it is locked in place – it is immovable ... Think about what it means to fix something in the natural ... A fixed point on a map doesn't drift ... A fixed anchor on a ship – doesn't let the vessel float – wherever the current takes it ... Paul is literally saying – anchor your attention to Him – the way a ship – anchors to the sea floor ... With the deliberate intention – that this is where your attention will always remain – not occasionally – but permanently.

Hebrews 12:2 International Standard Version

Fixing our attention on Jesus, - the pioneer and perfecter of the faith, - Who, in view of the joy set before Him, - endured the cross, - disregarding its shame, - and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Then Paul shares with us his final kingdom reality – that we would be wise to heed

Always dragging you down to its level of immaturity

This is the disastrous result of cultural conformity ... Cultural conformity is the direct result of living from a carnal mindset – which in turn – is at enmity with the Father Himself ... So, in order to carry out its demonic scheme – this culture seeks to capture your attention ... Seeks to control your behavior ... Seeks to keep you from becoming who God has predestined you to be ... This culture is not casually trying to shape you ... It is relentlessly and constantly pressing you into conformity ... Because it knows – to be carnally minded is death ... This natural realm – influenced by the “god of this world” – seeks to render you spiritually impotent and if possible – destroy you for all eternity.

The phrase – Fix your Attention on God – is your spiritual warfare key ... When you make an intentional – conscious – deliberate – sustained decision to keep your eyes fixed upon Him – regardless of what is going on around you ... All the demons of hell can’t even get close to you.

Takeaway

Let me leave you with one simple but powerful practice as a takeaway this morning ... I have reminded you of where you are heading ... I have reminded you of what is trying to keep you from getting there ... I admonished you – not to take lightly the relentless pressure this culture constantly exerts upon you – in order to make you conform to its image ... So, remember – your key to staying on course and not being deterred by culture is this - - Fix your Attention constantly upon your King.

So – it is one thing to know that you need to fix your attention upon Him ... But how do you actually do that ... Let me give you the most valuable – practical tool for your tool bag ... But let me lay this foundation first ... You must carve this foundational principle upon your soul ... “What captures your attention – captures you ... And I will add – this culture is relentless in its pursuit to capture your attention ... If you don’t grasp this foundation – the rest of the process will never work.

The application – randomly throughout your day – simply stop what you are doing ... Refocus yourself and ask yourself these following questions ... Where is my attention placed at this moment – What am I thinking about – Why am I feeling this ... Why am I doing this ... Why am I saying these things?

This practice is to help stay aligned with the Kingdom ... To be in complete harmony with the indwelling Holy Spirit ... To properly function as a kainos being – our attention must be fixed upon the Father.

John 5:19 -- Passion Translation

"The Son is not able to do anything from himself or through his own initiative. I only do the works that I see the Father doing, for the Son does the same works as his Father."