

Still stinging from the Last Two Sermons



Sermons like Pastor Roger preached the last two weeks can leave us asking several legitimate questions about our ability to fulfill our God given responsibilities to make reconciling broken relationships a priority to the level we are called to.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS



□ Am I missing something?

□ Have I been left unequipped by God?

□ What have I not been given in order to lead the life God calls me to?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, ***he is a new creature***; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**,

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **He has committed to us the word of reconciliation**.

²⁰ Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though **God were making an appeal through us**; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be **reconciled** to God.

²¹ He made Him **who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf**, so that we might become **the righteousness** of God in Him.

Looks Like it is All There!



Revelation 3:1-3

“I know your deeds, that you have a name that **you are alive**, but **you are dead**.

Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, **which were about to die**; for I have **not found your deeds completed** in the sight of My God.

So **remember** what you have received and heard; and **keep *it***, and **repent**.”

Is it Possible...

That I am in a spiritual stupor?

What is a spiritual stupor?

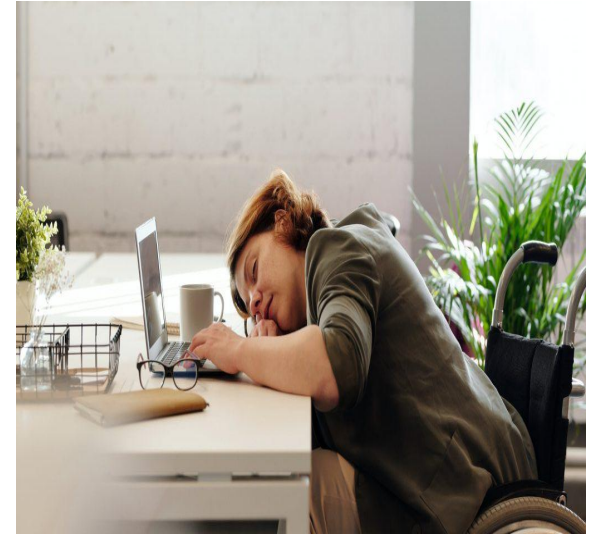
Definition of Stupor

Meriam-Webster

1. :a condition of greatly dulled or completely suspended sense or feeling; drifted into a pleasant, dreamy stupor.

2. : a state of dullness or lack of interest resulting often from stress or shock.

(Maybe like a “Brain fog” for one reason or another.)



Definition of Stupor: Hebrew

The phrase “spirit of stupor” alludes to Isaiah 29:10. The Hebrew word in the quotation for stupor means numbness resulting from a sting. Stupor is a **deadness** toward God’s grace. God rejected Israel corporately, as a nation, because of this. This does not mean He rejected the nation Israel forever.

Israel did not respond to God’s offer of salvation by grace because of their stupor. Their persistent stupor rendered torpor—a state resulting from too much **sensation**. These people were dulled by their **constant rejection of God’s grace**.

Isaiah 30:1-5

Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the LORD, “Who execute a plan, **but not Mine**, And make an alliance, **but not of My Spirit**, In order to add sin to sin;

² who proceed down to Egypt **Without consulting Me**,
To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

³ “Therefore the safety of Pharaoh **will be your shame**
and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, **your humiliation**.

⁴ “For their princes are at Zoan and their ambassadors arrive at Hanes.

⁵ “Everyone will be ashamed because of a people **who cannot profit them**, *Who are* not for help or profit, but for **shame and also for reproach**.”

Definition of Stupor: Greek

Ac 7:51, “*You* **stiff-necked** and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you. The Greek carries the idea of cause—“**a spirit which causes numbness.**”

“Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

“Do not **quench** the Spirit;” 1 Thessalonians 5:19

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

“Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”
Become **sober-minded** as you ought, and stop sinning; for **some**
have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to **your shame**.”

Luke 21:34-36

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and **cares of this life**, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For **it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth**. But **stay awake at all times**, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and **to stand before the Son of Man.**”

Romans 12:2

“Do not be **conformed to this world**, but be transformed by **the renewal of your mind**, that by testing **you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

1 Peter 5:8

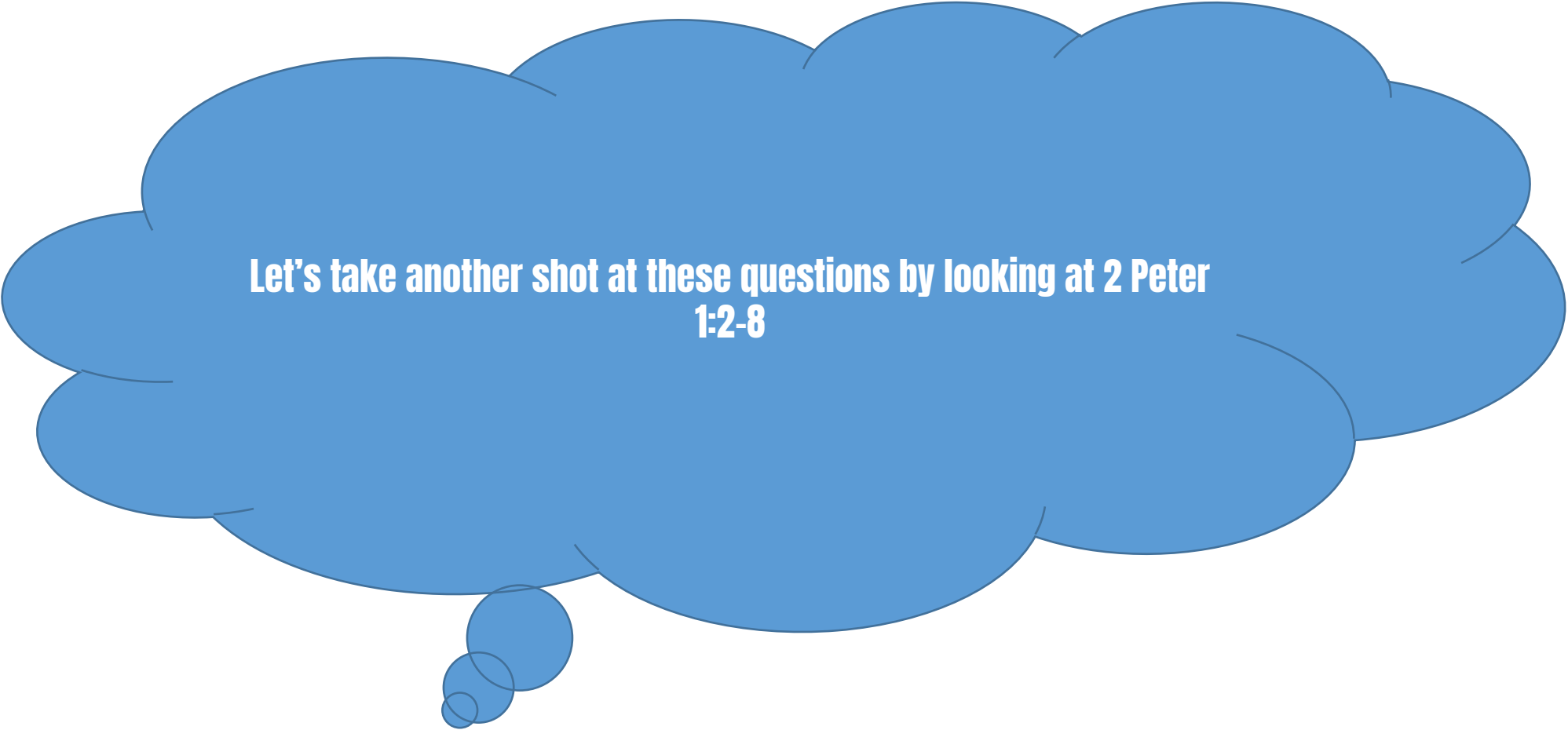
“Be **sober-minded; be watchful**. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

□ Am I missing something?

□ Have I've been left unequipped by God?

□ What have I not been given in order to lead the life God calls me to?



**Let's take another shot at these questions by looking at 2 Peter
1:2-8**

The Sufficiency of the Gospel

2 Peter 1:2-4

²“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in **the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**;

³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us **everything** pertaining to life and godliness, through **the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.

⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, **so that by them** you may become partakers of **the divine nature**, having **escaped** the corruption that is in the world by lust.

The Sufficiency of the Gospel

2 Peter 1:5-8

⁵ Now for this very reason also, **applying all diligence**, in your faith supply **moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**,

⁶ and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**,

⁷ and in *your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love**.

⁸ For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, **they render you** neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge **of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Our Conclusion Based In God's Undeniable Truth

We *are* fully equipped. **But we have a choice** about whether or not we'll really use those spiritual tools. **This requires effort on our part.**

Our Conclusion Based In God's Undeniable Truth

For those in Christ, God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness. Like salvation, all of this was ours when we came to know God (through faith in Christ). As Peter makes clear, **knowing God**, the source of all life, is the only path to being fully equipped to live as God calls us to do.

Knowing God

“WHAT COMES INTO OUR MINDS WHEN WE THINK ABOUT
GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT US.”

A.W. TOZER

Knowing God

When we speak of knowing God, it is important to understand that we are not talking about abstract or speculative thought concerning God or mystical experiences but about coming alive to God through Jesus Christ and surrendering ourselves to Him in grateful love (Rom. 12:1). As John says, “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12).

Thomas A. Tarrants Author, President Emeritus, CSLI

Knowing God

We must also understand that knowing God is not an optional part of the Christian life; it is the Christian life. Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3). The English word *know* in this verse is a translation of the Greek word *ginosko*, which, in this context, means an experiential knowing, not simply an intellectual understanding of facts about God or Jesus or the Bible.

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Knowing God

This relationship begins when we come alive to God -- that is, when, by grace, we are awakened from the state of spiritual death into which everyone is born, and receive the eternal life Jesus offers to those who trust in Him for salvation. The first part, recognizing and turning from our sins, is repentance; the second part, trusting in Jesus and His atoning death on the cross to forgive our sins, is faith. Coming alive to God requires both. Jesus described this as being born from above or born of the Holy Spirit. It means birth into God's family and entrance into His kingdom (John 3:3–8). Without rebirth by the Holy Spirit, a person cannot see, perceive, understand, or know God or His kingdom. Thomas A. Tarrants Author, President Emeritus, CSLI

Knowing God

The metaphor of birth provides a helpful way of understanding fuller implications of what it means to know God and to grow in that relationship.

John distinguishes between “little children,” “fathers,” and “young men” (1 John 2:12–14). What does this mean? Spiritually the newest infant in Christ knows God, but not very well. As this baby grows in grace, he or she will progress toward maturity and, in doing so, will come to know God better and better. We have probably seen this if we have been believers for a while. What a joy it is to encounter an infant in Christ, a new convert, eager and zealous for the things of God. But what a blessing to meet a father or mother in Christ, a mature believer who has faithfully walked with God for decades and whose life is characterized by a degree of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that is truly Christlike! This kind of mature relationship with God is what every believer is called to pursue. Thomas A. Tarrants Author, President Emeritus, CSLI

Knowing God- what He says.

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

Knowing God

2 Peter 3:18-19 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Psalm 9:10 “And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.”

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

Knowing God

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

Back to Our Responsibility of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

²⁰ Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though **God were making an appeal through us**; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be **reconciled** to God.

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POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

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SOME CLUES WE ARE SNOOZING

James 4:1-4

“What is the **source** of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source **your pleasures** that wage war in your members?

² You **lust** and do not have; so you commit murder. You are **envious** and cannot obtain; so you **fight and quarrel**. You do not have because you do not ask.

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

⁴ You **adulteresses**, do you not know that **friendship with the world** is **hostility toward God**? Therefore **whoever wishes** to be a friend of the world **makes himself** an enemy of God.

A PROFUNDITY FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

“I Do What I Do because I Want What I Want
because I Believe What I Believe.”

Conclusions

Ephesians 5:6-21

Romans 13:11-14

COUNSELING AVAILABLE

If any of the content in this presentation has been disturbing or confusing, seriously, counseling is available.