

Sermon for February 15, 2026 - Transfiguration

2 Peter 1:16–21 (EHV)

Theme: Jesus' Glory Revealed

- 1) To Peter on the Mountain
- 2) To us through God's Word

¹⁶ To be sure, we were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

A scared child comes to his pastor father, troubled by questions he can't shake.

"Daddy, how do we know Jesus is real?"

His father answers: "Because the Bible tells us, my dear child."

After a pause, the child asks, "But Daddy, how do we know the Bible is real?"

Can you relate to this child? I can. I asked my father very similar questions. And the devil still tempts me with them today. Doesn't he tempt you too?

The unbelieving world scoffs at us for our faith in Christ, saying things like: "If Jesus is God, why doesn't he show himself now? *Where is this promised coming of his?*" Still worse, critical Bible scholars teach that Jesus' miracle stories are mere myths – no different from the hero stories of other cultures.

So how do we answer? How do we know that our faith is grounded in truth when unbelieving professors from prestigious universities tell us that the story of Christ is nothing more than a myth with a moral?

Our sermon text for this morning tells us how we can know Jesus is the Christ and that the Bible is true. With the apostle Peter as our guide, let us have our faith strengthened and see: **Jesus' Glory Revealed** 1) To Peter on the holy mountain, and 2) To us through God's Word.

Part One: Jesus' Glory Revealed to Peter on the Holy Mountain

King Solomon once wrote: *There is nothing new under the sun.*ⁱⁱ How true this statement is regarding the world's arguments against faith in Christ.

The Christians to whom Peter first wrote our sermon text faced many of the same attacks on their faith that we face today. The world told them that their faith was foolish, that there was no proof that Jesus was the Son of God, and that the Old Testament Scriptures were myths.

In response to those attacks, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Peter to write:

¹⁶ To be sure, we were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Our faith in Christ is not some foolish fable or false hope as the unbelieving world tries to make it out to be. Unlike other world religions, which are often based merely on the dream or vision of a single person, Jesus revealed His glory to many people in a variety of ways so that our faith would not rest merely on the testimony of one individual.

Take Jesus' transfiguration, for example. He didn't just reveal his glory to Peter but allowed James and John to experience it as well. Why? Because people can easily dismiss the firsthand account of a single individual as made up or a hallucination. But it's a lot harder to explain away something three eyewitnesses claim to have seen at the same time.

Let me illustrate what I mean with a personal story. Would you believe me if I told you I once stood on a platform before a crowd of people in the Kremlin near the Patriarch of Moscow, cringing when he attempted to bless me? Even if I gave you all the details of how it happened, it sounds too crazy to be true, right?

But what if I told you that my mother and father witnessed everything? Suddenly, my story has more credibility. Why? Because you could verify it with my dad.

In the same way, Peter isn't just describing something he experienced alone. Two other eyewitnesses were with him – one of whom was still alive when he wrote this letter. And what exactly did they witness? Peter tells us:

¹⁷ For he [Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

How do we know Jesus is not like Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed, or any other human falsely claiming to have divine insight? Because the same majestic cloud that enveloped Moses at Mount Sinai enveloped Peter, James, and John. And just as the LORD spoke to Moses from the cloud at Sinai, so he also spoke to the three disciples about Jesus: *"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

As Moses and the Israelites never forgot what they saw and heard at Mount Sinai, neither would Peter, James, or John forget what they experienced on the Mount of Transfiguration. They were given a glimpse of Jesus' glory. He is the Messiah – the very Son of God prophesied about throughout Old Testament Scripture.

God the Father was pleased with Jesus because He lived the perfect life in obedience to God's law that we all failed to live, winning the righteousness we need to stand before God. Willingly submitting himself to His Father's will, Jesus resolutely headed towards Jerusalem, where He would offer Himself up as the once-and-for-all sacrifice for our sins.

On the cross, Jesus would appear to be just another poor soul suffering under Roman cruelty. But the hidden reality was very different. He is the all-glorious Son of God, whose sacrifice would offer everlasting forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who believe.

So, how do we know Jesus is the Son of God, our Saviour? On the one hand, we have eyewitness accounts of those who, like Peter, saw His glory.

But as powerful as that testimony is, Peter wants us to see that we have something even more certain than his own experience:

Part Two: Jesus' Glory Revealed to Us Through God's Word

¹⁹ We also have the completely reliable prophetic word.

The greatest reason we are convinced Jesus is the Christ is that the Holy Spirit reveals this truth to us in Scripture. "But," someone might say, "how can the testimony of a single book be sufficient reason to believe in Jesus as the Saviour?"

To answer that question, we must first understand that the Bible is not really a single book. It's like a little library: a compilation of many writings, written over 1,500 years.

Obviously, the writers of these unique documents never compared notes, and yet all their writings reveal a perfect unity of message and purpose. They all point us to Jesusⁱⁱⁱ – revealing humanity's need for a Saviour, God's promise of a Saviour, and how the LORD worked throughout history to bring His Saviour into the world.

And not only is the Bible unified in its purpose and teaching, but it is also completely reliable. How so?

Consider this: except for the prophecies concerning the Last Day (which hasn't yet arrived), every prophecy of Scripture has either already been fulfilled or is being fulfilled, and the centre of those fulfillments is Christ. And the prophecies of the Scripture are not vague pronouncements. No, they are very specific – rooted in actual history and, therefore, open to examination.

Do you want to know how accurate the Scripture is in prophecy? So accurate that many unbelieving scholars will try to use that accuracy against it. They claim that the prophecies of Scripture must have been written after the fact, or that eyewitness accounts were changed over time to make the Bible appear more accurate.

What hard evidence do they have to support their claims? None. The more they look for actual evidence to prove Scripture wrong, the more Scripture is shown to be right.

And if God has kept every detailed promise He ever made in the past, He will keep His detailed promises to you today: to forgive you, to be with you, and to raise you on the Last Day.

Therefore, Peter writes:

You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts.

Yes, this world is certainly a dark place, full of ignorance and unbelief. It does not know God and is content to stay in the dark. But God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.^{iv} By always pointing us to Jesus, it shows us the way of salvation.

Peter describes the effect the Gospel has on a believer as the Morning Star rising in our hearts. What does that mean?

Just as the planet Venus (the Morning Star) sometimes peeks over the horizon just before dawn, so also the Gospel is itself a sign that the dawn of our salvation is fast approaching. And so, just as night watchmen treasured seeing the Morning Star because it meant their long night was over, so Christians treasure accounts like Christ's transfiguration as the sign of the greater glory yet to come. They point us to the day when we will see Jesus face to face: when He will raise and change our bodies so that they reflect His glorious body.^v

Why will the Gospel have this joyous, hopeful effect on the believer? Peter explains:

²⁰ Since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Here, Peter comes to the heart of the matter: The Bible, though written by many people over 1,500 years, has only one author: God. Even though humans did the physical writing, the Holy Spirit led their life experiences, research, and thoughts so they would only write what He wanted them to write.

This is why this library of writings we call the Bible reads as one united story. The Bible proves Jesus is the Christ, and the historicity of Jesus proves the Bible is God's infallible Word.

Sadly, many don't believe this truth. Why? Not because the Scriptures have been proven unreliable or wrong, but because our sinful hearts don't want to believe it. Our love of sin and pride in ourselves acts like a veil, blinding us to the clear truth of the Bible.

Believers, however, see Jesus' glory in Scripture. The Holy Spirit enlightens them to this truth, leading them to confess their sins and believe Jesus is the Son of God, our Saviour.

Yes, the life of Jesus proves the Bible is true. And through the Bible alone, the Holy Spirit not only shows us the evidence but actually convinces us that Jesus is the true Son of God through whom we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

And so, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, whenever you are tempted to wonder how you can know for certain that Jesus is real and that the Scriptures are true, turn again to the Word. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and faith as you meditate on what He Himself inspired, and then read it to see Jesus' glory revealed.

As you come back again and again to this Word, the Holy Spirit will keep doing what he has always done: revealing Jesus' glory to you, strengthening your faith, and keeping you until the day when you will no longer walk by faith but by sight.

Amen.

ⁱ Cf. 2 Peter 3:3-4

ⁱⁱ Ecclesiastes 1:9

ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. John 5:39

^{iv} Cf. Palm 119:105

^v Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54