

YOU KNOW BECAUSE

2 Peter 1:16-21 “. . .we were eyewitnesses. . .we have. . .the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention. . .” (read verses 16-21 and also Matthew 17:1-13)

When you have related to someone something you saw with your own two eyes or learned in some other way, isn't it maddening for them to say to you, “But how can you be sure?” Your response to them was, “Because I saw it with my own two eyes and learned it from . . .” There is nothing more you can say or do to convince them.

This is what Peter is doing here in 2 Peter 1:16-21. The Jewish leaders were constantly attacking the Apostles teaching the teachings of Jesus, about His Easter resurrection and ascension 40 days later. In these five verses Peter speaks his “because.” He says, I know that Jesus Christ is true God come from heaven as Savior of us all and I know all who have faith in Him as their Savior have the forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in heaven BECAUSE I saw Jesus transfigured in all holiness and majesty with my very own eyes. Not only did I see Him transfigured, but my brother Apostle's James and John saw the same thing.

Secondly BECAUSE the Holy Scriptures are not words of fiction written by men, but are God's authentic, true and pure word which the Holy Spirit revealed and inspired men to write the sixty-six books of the Bible, I need no further proof. It is BECAUSE I have witnessed Him with my eyes, heard Jesus teach with my own ears and received the Word of God to write personally from the Holy Spirit that Jesus is Lord, that is all I need. Peter says that God's word is “a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises. . .” (2 Peter 1:19) This is parallel to the words of the Psalmist in 118:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

When you have doubts, which come to all Christians from time to time, about your salvation through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, you can be sure, as was Peter, you can be sure BECAUSE the Holy Spirit caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for your learning (knowing), because the Holy Spirit worked faith in you through the Gospel (Romans 1:16-17), and because the Holy Spirit has

convinced you in your heart that through Jesus you have God's forgiveness of all your sins and His promise of heaven.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, work in my heart daily a sure and certain faith to believe every word You revealed and inspired the writers of the Holy Scriptures to pen.

O God of light, Your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
And show Your grace, Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
Though we rebelled, You gently sought again
And spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
Who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;
And questing spirits, longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate Your gift of grace.
(LSB 836)