

A Living Hope

A Study in First Peter

LESSON ONE

Prayerfully read through 1st Peter, chapter one.

Peter addresses his letter to the “pilgrims” of the dispersion. The Greek word for pilgrim used here is *parepidemos*, and some Bible translations use the word *strangers*. The word means, literally, a by-resident, a sojourner among a people not one’s own. This is truly a description of all of us, as Christians in a hostile world. Peter will use this description again for his readers in 1 Peter 2:11.

Peter’s reference to them as being pilgrims of the Dispersion is a term used of Jews, separated from their homeland, but Peter borrows the phrase to refer to all Christians, who were now scattered throughout the areas of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, all places Christianity had extended after the beginning of the early church.

Most scholars agree that this letter was purposely not written to one congregation, but to all believers, both Jews and Gentiles.

- 1) Look up **Philippians 3:20** and record the encouragement Paul gives to his readers in Philippi.

- 2) In what ways have you experienced feeling like a “stranger” or “sojourner” as a Christian in today’s culture?

- 3) In **1 Peter 1:2**, Peter further describes his readers as “elect.” According to this verse, what is this election based on? What does Peter say it is “**according to**?”

- 4) Still looking at **verse 2**, to what purpose does Peter state this election was given? What was **God’s purpose** in electing us?

- 5) Look up **Romans 8:29 & 30**. How do these verses further clarify our “election” and “sanctification?” Share the insights you gain from these verses.

- 6) Looking again at **1 Peter 1:2**, by what means does the last part of the verse say this was accomplished?

- 7) Share from **Hebrews 9:14** what the blood of Christ has done for us.

- 8) Write out **1 Peter 1:3**.

9) The phrase “begotten again” (NKJV) has the same meaning as being “born again.” This **living hope** (and the theme for our study) belongs only to those who have experienced this “new birth” in Christ. What do the following verses tell us about being born or “begotten again?”

John 3:3 -

2 Corinthians 5:17 -

10) The last part of **1 Peter 1:3** tells us that it is through the resurrection of Christ that this **living hope** has been given to us. How does **Titus 3:7** describe this hope?

11) Record the description Peter gives of this living hope in **1 Peter 1:4**.

12) This promise of our inheritance that is being reserved for us in heaven, is one we can have a full assurance of because of another promise of God that we find in **verse 5**. What does **verse 5** tell us that makes our promised inheritance **certain**?

13) **1 Peter 1:6** tells us that “**in this [promise] we greatly rejoice...**” Explain in your own words how the **promise of verse 5** helps you to **rejoice**, even in the midst of life’s trials.

David Guzik states: *“We are **kept by the power of God**, but it is **through faith**, meaning **our faith**. The person who is **kept** is a person abiding in a continuing relationship of **faith** with God. We could say that **faith** activates the preserving power of God in the life of the Christian.”*

- 14) In **verse 7**, Peter gives us an insight into **why** God allows our faith to be tested. List the reasons he gives in this verse.

God doesn't test our faith because **He** wants to find out what sort of faith we have. Rather, God tests our faith to **reveal to us** what sort of faith we have. I love the reasons Pastor David Guzik lays out about the testing of our faith. He lists three: **1) Faith is tested to show that it is sincere faith or true faith.** **2) Faith is tested to show the strength of faith.** **3) Faith is tested to purify it, to burn away the dross from the gold.** He adds that *“**Gold** is one of the most durable of all materials. Yet it too will one day perish, but our faith will not.”*

- 15) One of the by-products of our faith is **joy**. In **verse 8**, Peter calls it a joy **inexpressible**. It isn't a “happiness” that depends upon “what's happening” but a joy we can't describe, deep down in our souls. Even though Peter **had** seen Jesus, both before and after His resurrection, he acknowledges that those of us who have not seen Him still love Him and believe in Him and that faith has imparted a joy within that words cannot express. Look up **John 15:11** and record what Jesus reveals about the **source** of this joy. Where does this joy come from?

- 16) From **1 Peter 1:9**, what does Peter tell us the end result of our faith will be?

- 17) What **IS** the “**end of our faith?**” When do we come to the **end**? Look up **1 Corinthians 13:12** and record the description Paul gives us about when faith is no longer needed.

- 18) Read through **verses 10 – 12** of **1 Peter, chapter 1**. Peter states that the Old Testament prophets wrote about things they did not understand. They recorded, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, things they did not at the time realize they were speaking to benefit those who would come after them. They were ministering to us prophetic words that would testify to us the truth of the Gospel we have received. What does Jesus say, in **Matthew 13:17** about this truth?
- 19) In the last part of **1 Peter 1:12**, Peter says that **“these things”** regarding God’s plan of salvation, are **“things the angels desire to look into.”** What does Paul tell us in **Ephesians 3:10** concerning this? (Note that in **Ephesians 3:11** Paul says this was part of **God’s eternal purpose.**)
- 20) Peter follows this, in **1 Peter 1:13**, with a **“therefore”**(***because of all this***). This reminds me of the admonition in **Hebrews 12:1**. Record that admonition below.
- 21) Back to **1 Peter 1:13**, Peter tells us that the things he has just told us should inspire us to live in a way that pleases God. What is the very first instruction he gives in **verse 13**? Record that instruction below. (Reminder: I am using NKJV)

“Gird up the loins of your mind” is a phrase that is out of the ordinary for us. According to the Bible Knowledge Commentary, it means to **“prepare your mind for action.”** And Peter states we must be **sober**, or **“we must take seriously”** that instruction.

- 22) So, looking at the rest of **verse 13**, along with **verses 14 & 15**, write down the **“actions”** we are to take according to these verses.

Verse 13:

Verse 14:

Verse 15:

- 23) Looking at **verses 16 & 17**, record in **your own words** the **reasons** Peter gives us to “prepare your mind for action” in living a holy life.

- 24) How do the following Scriptures add to these reasons?

2 Corinthians 5:10 -

Philippians 2:12 -

Hebrews 12:28 –

- 25) **Verses 18 – 21** give us even further motivation for living a godly life. Summarize in your own words these motivations from the verses below.

Verse 18 -

Verse 19 –

Verse 20 -

Verse 21 –

- 26) As we come to **verse 22** we are reminded that all our “righteous conduct” means nothing apart from love, for love is the **evidence** of a **changed life**. Record verse 22 below.
- 27) To add to this, look up **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** and record those verses below.
- 28) We know that in our own flesh, we are unable to live a holy life, set apart for God’s purposes, and we certainly aren’t able to love the way God calls us to love. This only becomes possible through having been born again, by God’s Spirit. In the last three verses of our chapter, Peter reminds us of the contrast between the corruptible, human “seed” we came from, and the incorruptible seed of Christ, who is the “Word” made flesh and who lives and abides forever. What other distinctions does Peter make between **our flesh** and the Word of God?

Verse 24 -

Verse 25 -

29) What in this chapter spoke most to your heart?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2023

LIVING  TRUTH