



Living Fervently in the Family of God

1 Peter

Bert Allen

Published by Christ Assembly
ChristAssembly.org

www.ChristAssembly.org

Permissions

You are granted a limited, revocable license to distribute this material through all lawful means, provided that you do not alter the wording or format and do not charge for copies or seek to recover any costs of publication; you may not receive any donations related to this work. Notice of revocation may be posted at ChristAssembly.org/book-notices and be sufficient to revoke all licenses without further notice. You maintain the sole obligation to stop any dissemination after the notice is published. Furthermore, you may not derive any economic benefit from such publication or distribution. All rights reserved by Herbert L. Allen, Jr. Please post a link to ChristAssembly.org for all web publications.

All Scriptural quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, Giant Print Hardcover edition. Page numbers, if any, refer to that Giant Print, Hardcover Bible.

"Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org"

Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Blessings of Salvation Today**
- 3. Priesthood Today**
- 4. Submitting to Authority Today**
- 5. Suffering Today**
- 6. Fervent Love Today**
- 7. Fiery Ordeal Today**
- 8. Elders Today**
- 9. Humble Today**
- 10. Friends in Christ Today**
- 11. Conclusion**

1

Introduction

Peter wrote as an apostle of Jesus Christ to churches scattered abroad. He wrote about familiar Christian themes of blessings, sufferings, service and the future. We are living stones built together into a priesthood of God. All saints serve God as holy priests and royal priests. We must submit to government authority and to one another.

Peter also revealed how we must endure suffering and grow up in Christ. Even as we suffer, we must have fervent love for one another. Though fiery ordeals will certainly come our way, we should not be ashamed of our sufferings as we follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter also wrote to elders as a fellow elder and eyewitness of Jesus Christ. He reminded them to shepherd the flock, not lording it over people, but setting an example. He also explained how we should relate to one another and build up one another. The devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Because we have humbled ourselves under the mighty hand of God, we keep sober and alert and never have to fear the devil. Though we experience fiery ordeals, God develops spiritual qualities within us that help us endure those things to the glory of God.

Peter closed his epistle by mentioning special friends. He then bade the saints peace with God.

HALLELUJAH !

2

Blessings of Salvation Today

Peter wrote the saints scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. They were chosen by God, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. Peter described basic theology with the blessings of God to follow. He described our inheritance that will never fade away, because it has been reserved in heaven and protected by God.

The prophets longed to look into that salvation, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

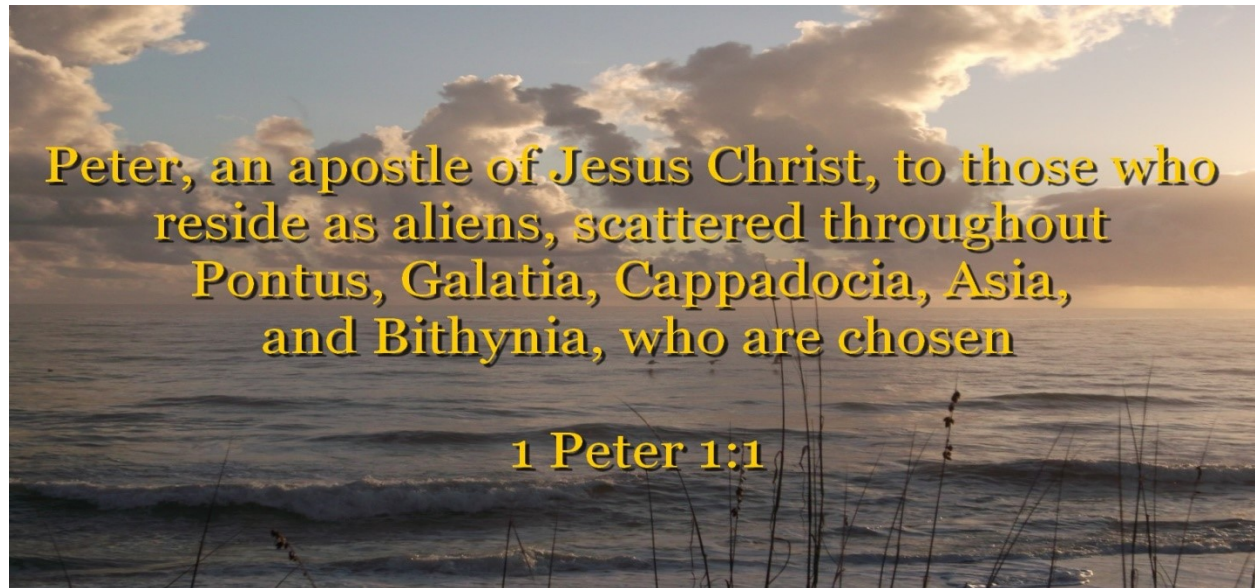
The saints must prepare their minds for action and be like children who obey the Holy One Who called them. They must also conduct themselves in fear during their time on earth, knowing that the God they call Father judges each man's work with impartiality. Saints have purified their souls for a sincere love of the brethren. They fervently love one another from the heart, because they have been born of imperishable seed through the living and enduring word of God.

Therefore, saints put aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy and envy. They desire the pure milk of the word, so they may grow in respect to salvation.

HALLELUJAH !

Day One

Peter Today



To whom did Peter write his first epistle? He wrote to the chosen people who reside as aliens in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

You may recall that the Holy Spirit forbade Paul from speaking the word in Asia. The ministry team with Paul passed through the Phrygian and Galatian regions. After they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them. If you ask yourself why the Holy Spirit did not allow them to speak in those places, Peter indicated that he had a relationship with the saints in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. Of course, Paul spent some time ministering in those places previously, but Peter informed us that he also had formed relationships within those areas. God uses ministry teams operating under His direction in different geographical places, but He coordinates them to achieve His purposes.

Peter described the people as aliens residing in those places. They were the chosen of God. The Holy Spirit emphasized in this verse that the

chosen people of God had been scattered abroad and Peter had a relationship with them. Persecution in Jerusalem and Judea had scattered many believers across the Mediterranean world and they took the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.

Apostle

1. **Peter**. What office did Peter hold? Peter wrote as an apostle of Jesus Christ to the Jews.

2. **Apostle**. Peter wrote to the chosen people of God.

3. **Reside**. Those chosen people resided in the area of Asia Minor.

4. **Aliens**. They lived as aliens in a foreign land.

5. **Scattered**. They had been scattered abroad by the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem and Judea and other parts of the world.

6. **Throughout**. Living fervently in the family of God means persecution had scattered them throughout the regions of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

7. **Chosen**. We rejoice today because God's chosen people had been scattered abroad, but He knows exactly where every one of them lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by praising God that He cares about the saints scattered abroad.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by remembering that Peter the apostle ministered to people far and wide.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by remembering every believer was chosen by God to be a member of the family of God.**

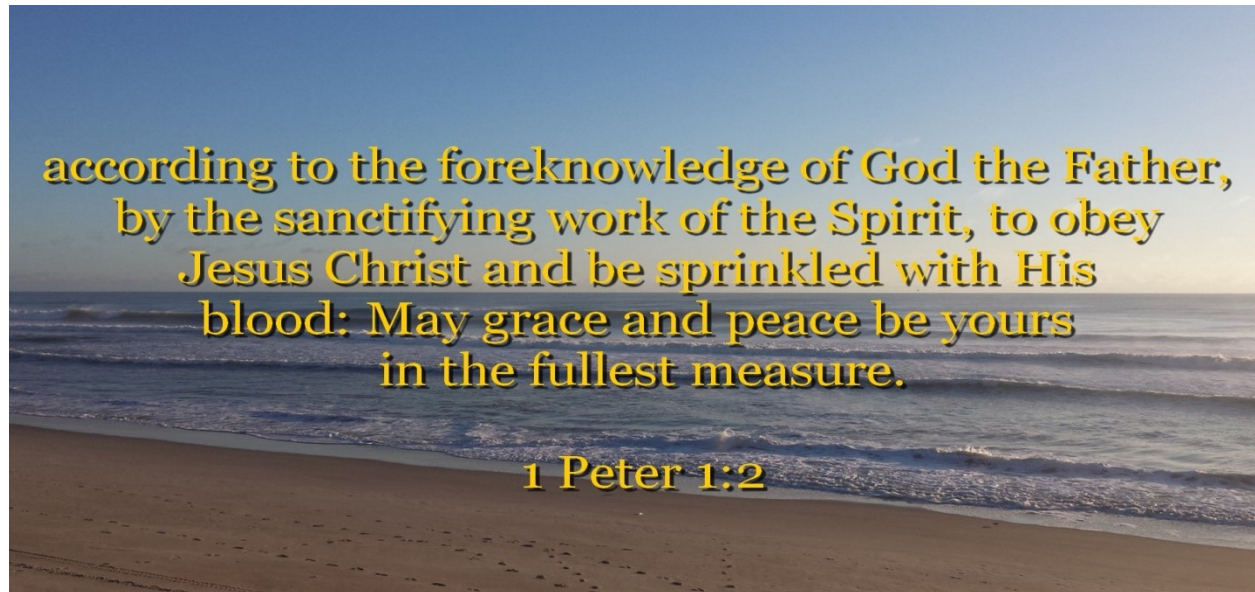
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by living like God chose us to be with Him forever. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by reminding the saints that God chose them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Two

Foreknowledge Today



How were the people chosen by God? God the Father chose them by His foreknowledge.

Peter, the apostle to the Jews, explained that God the Father chose the people scattered abroad by His foreknowledge as God. Peter linked the foreknowledge of God to the sanctifying work of the Spirit. God purposed to create a people who would obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.

Peter greeted the chosen people scattered abroad with the words, “May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.” Peter had joined together many theological concepts and his opening verses.

Peter will talk more about the chosen people and how God’s knowledge of all things influences our lives. Likewise, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit will also produce great effects in the chosen people.

God chose people so that they would obey Jesus Christ. He sprinkled His blood for them. Therefore, they can live in His grace and peace in fullest measure.

Sanctifying

1. Foreknowledge. How did God choose us? He chose us according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.

2. Sanctifying. God the Father chose us according to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, making us holy before Him.

3. Spirit. The Holy Spirit made us holy so that we would obey Jesus Christ.

4. Obey. As the chosen people of God, we obey Jesus Christ because of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

5. Sprinkled. We have been sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses us from all sin.

6. Grace. Living fervently in the family of God means the grace and peace of God came into our lives with Jesus Christ and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

7. Measure. We rejoice today because God wants His grace and peace to be ours in fullest measure.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God remembering that God the Father chose us according to His foreknowledge.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God as we enjoy the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives each day.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by thanking God that He wants us to have grace and peace from Him in fullest measure.**

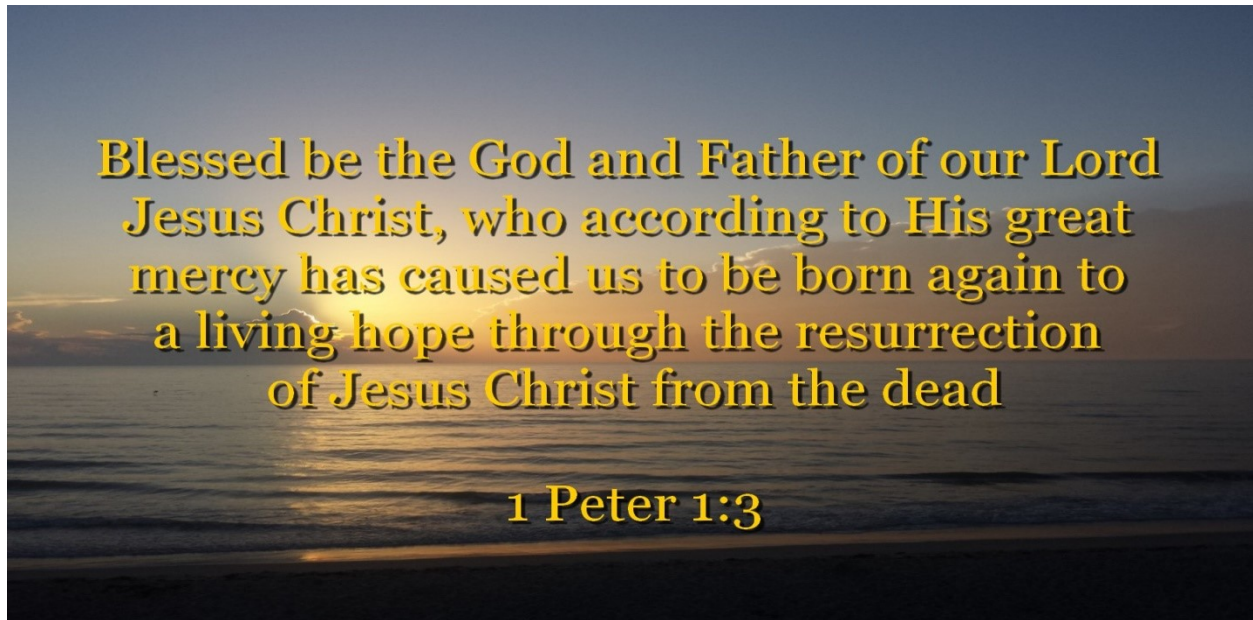
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives bringing us the fullest measure of His grace and peace. Will you live fervently in the family of God today as you praise Him for sprinkling you with the blood of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Three

Blessed Today



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who according to His great
mercy has caused us to be born again to
a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead

1 Peter 1:3

What is the living hope of the chosen people? The living hope centers around the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Peter said that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ should be blessed. According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope. That living hope centers in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Because Jesus Christ has been resurrected from the dead, believers enjoy many blessings from God. Peter explained that the saints are born again to a living hope. Likewise, John explained that unless we are born again, we cannot see the kingdom of God or enter the kingdom of God. Therefore, the theme of being born again remains central to the kingdom of God.

Peter also described the great mercy of God. Mercy means that God withholds the punishment that we deserve. The grace of God means He gives us things we do not deserve. By the great mercy of God, we are born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter comforts the chosen people scattered abroad by reminding them of the basic truths related to mercy in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Resurrection

1. Father. Why should we bless God? We should bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because of His great mercy.

2. Mercy. God the Father caused us to be born again according to His great mercy.

3. Living. God the Father gave us a living hope, built upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

4. Hope. Our hope brings assurance that God will bring to pass what He promised to do.

5. Resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead forms the bedrock of our living hope.

6. Jesus. Living fervently in the family of God means God wants us to have the living hope, based upon Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

7. Dead. We rejoice today because we have been born again to a living hope because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead for us.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God caused us to be born again.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God as we hope in God each day.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God as we praise God that our hope is built upon Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead.**

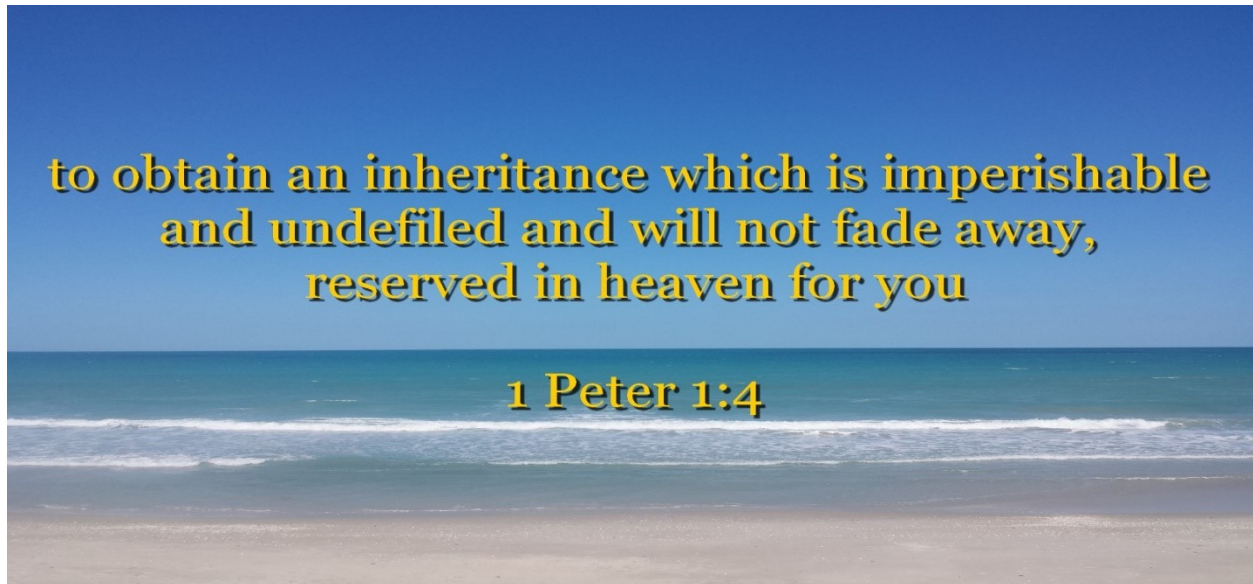
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for our living hope. Will you live fervently in the family of God today in the living hope God gave us in Jesus Christ our Lord?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Four

Inheritance Today



What kind of inheritance should we expect from God? God says He has an imperishable and undefiled inheritance for us which will not fade away.

God described our inheritance as reserved in heaven for us, the chosen people of God. Therefore, God shows us that we will receive an inheritance from Him in heaven. As the chosen people endure persecution and trials on earth, God reminds them of the great blessings that they have already received through the Lord Jesus Christ. God also reminds them that they have an inheritance laid up for them in heaven that will never perish and never fade away, because God has reserved it for them in heaven.

Peter constantly reminds the chosen people of God's activity in choosing them and keeping them. Peter will encourage them to live fervently based upon both their present relationship to God and the future blessings He has for them in heaven. While they may struggle on earth today, their future could not look brighter in heaven.

By looking to the future inheritance in heaven, Peter provides hope for today. Peter will pursue this throughout the first epistle. Peter wants the people scattered abroad to understand more about God's choosing and purposes and their eternal blessings in Him.

Reserved

1. Inheritance. What did God promise to give us in the future? He promised to give us an inheritance.

2. Imperishable. He promised to that the inheritance was imperishable, meaning it would not wither away.

3. Undefiled. Our inheritance also is undefiled, meaning it is holy and pure.

4. Fade. Our heavenly inheritance will never fade away.

5. Reserved. God has reserved our inheritance for us in heaven.

6. Heaven. Living fervently in the family of God means we believe God really has prepared an inheritance for each one of us in heaven.

7. You. We rejoice today because Jesus has promised to give to you and to us an inheritance that God has prepared for each one of us and keeps it according to His glorious power.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by looking forward to our inheritance in heaven.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God with full assurance that our inheritance is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God for the inheritance He has prepared for us, reserved in heaven.**

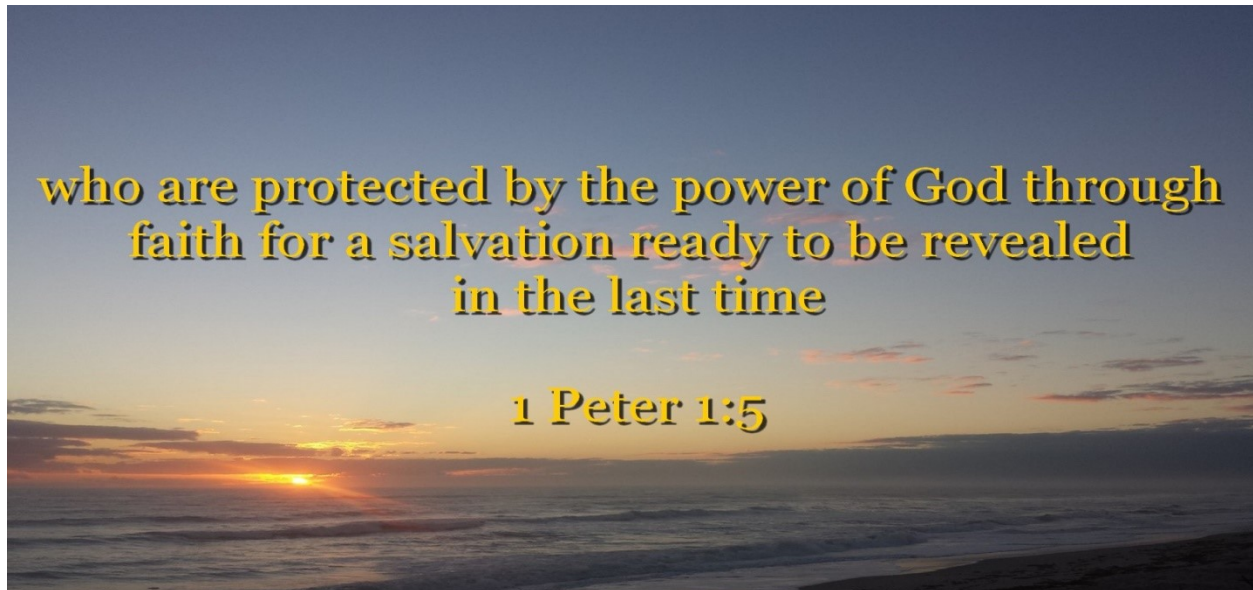
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by living like God chose us to be with Him forever. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by looking forward to receiving your inheritance in heaven?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Five

Protected Today



Who protects the chosen people? God protects the chosen people by His power.

Peter described how God chose people to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. God then protects those people with His power through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Therefore, we know that we are saved at the moment we received the free gift of eternal life from Jesus on earth. Yet, in another sense, our salvation will be revealed in the future at the last time.

God used Peter to link prophecy with our present lives today. Throughout the Bible God reveals the future, but expects us to live according to the knowledge He revealed to us about the future. In other words, God did not reveal the future solely to inform us of future events. God intended that those future events would affect how we live today. Peter continues that theme by telling us about our inheritance and the power of God and our salvation. Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,

Peter provided hope for today based upon God's revelation of the future. We may suffer today, but our eternity remains protected by the power of God.

Revealed

1. **Protected**. Who protects us? We are protected by God.
2. **Power**. The power of God Himself protects us each day.
3. **God**. God not only protects us, but keeps us safe for eternity.
4. **Faith**. The power of God works through our faith.
5. **Salvation**. By faith we look for salvation provided by God.
6. **Revealed**. Living fervently in the family of God means God will reveal our salvation one day in the future.
7. **Time**. We rejoice today because our salvation is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by looking forward to our salvation.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by remembering that the power of God protects our salvation.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God as we look with faith for our salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

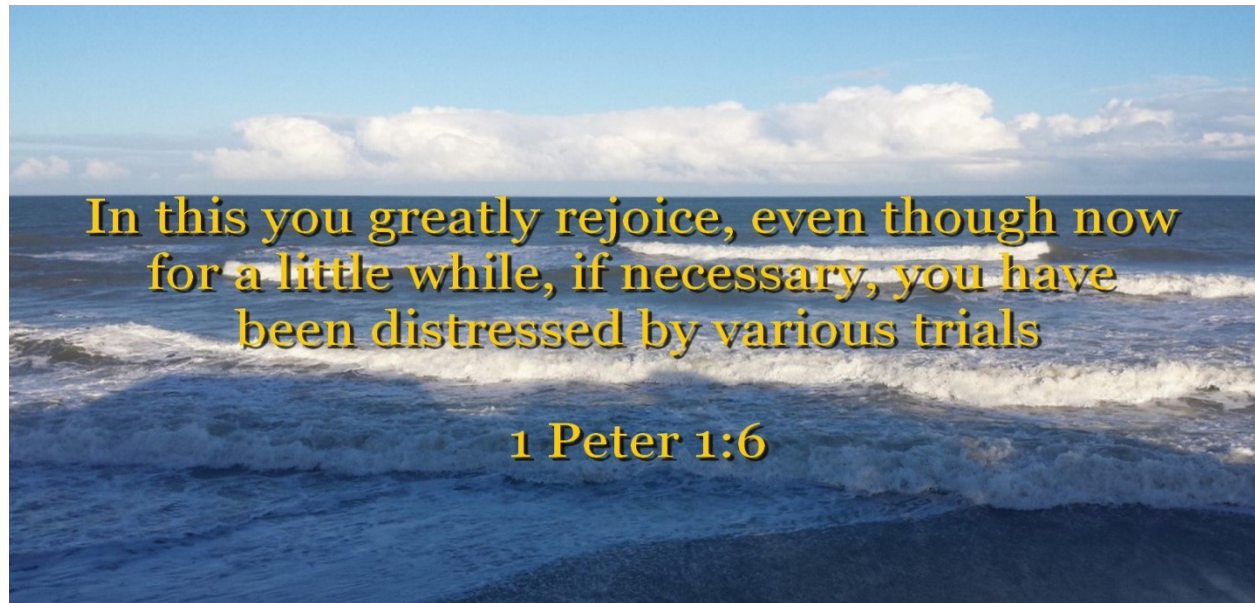
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God protecting our salvation through faith. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God for His great salvation ready to be revealed in the last time?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Six

Rejoice Today



Why do we rejoice today? We rejoice because our salvation is protected by the power of God.

God revealed through Peter that we encounter various trials as believers. As we go through those trials, God provides strong encouragement for us. He reminds us that we have an imperishable inheritance reserved for us in heaven. In addition, we are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

God intends for us to be strong through suffering and trials. He provides the strength and power for us to endure the trials. He wants us to focus our hope upon His power keeping us in Him safe and secure. While we may be distressed outwardly because of our trials on earth, our heavenly salvation and inheritance remain eternally secure in God.

God never abandons us or leaves us in the middle of trials. On the contrary, He empowers us to live through the trials and look forward to our

salvation in the future when we see Him face to face. By His grace and mercy, we look forward to our inheritance reserved for us in heaven.

***Trial**s*

- 1. Rejoice.** Why should we rejoice? We rejoice in our great salvation.
- 2. Little.** For a little while, the saints will experience various trials and may be distressed by them.
- 3. Necessary.** It may be necessary for them to be distressed by the various trials.
- 4. You.** Peter wrote using the term “you,” indicating he cared for those saints.
- 5. Distressed.** Various trials may result in the saints being distressed by them.
- 6. Various.** Living fervently in the family of God means all trials do not come in the same size and shape, but in various trials with various intensity and dimensions.
- 7. Trials.** We rejoice today because Jesus wants us to rejoice as we are distressed by various trials.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by understanding that various trials will be coming our way.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by greatly rejoicing, even though we are distressed by various trials.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by reminding one another that various trials may distress us, but we also greatly rejoice as we endure them.**

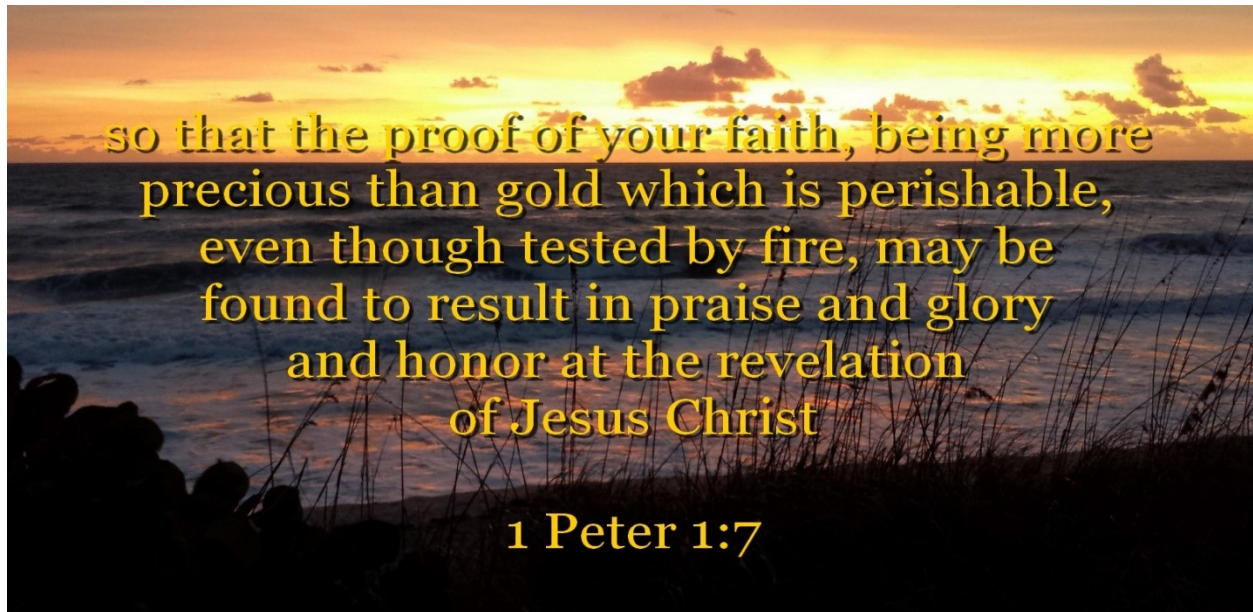
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by greatly rejoicing as we experience various trials. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that you can greatly rejoice by the power of God as you experience various trials and are distressed by them?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seven

Proof Today



What is the proof of our faith? The proof of our faith is that God finds us worthy, even now, to be tested by fire.

God describes testing by various trials on earth as testing our faith with fire. Just as fire tests the quality of gold, so also fire tests our faith. God means our faith will endure the fire and so pass the test. While gold is perishable, our faith results in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The revelation of Jesus Christ refers to the time where He comes back to reign upon the earth. After seven years of tribulation upon the earth, Jesus will set His feet upon the Mount of Olives and begin His millennial reign upon the earth. Therefore, we know that our faith will result in praise and glory and honor at that time when Jesus returns back to earth.

The testing of our faith today magnifies the glory of God tomorrow.

Peter discussed the future in terms of how the future influences today. We look forward today to the return of Jesus to earth because we suffer today and the proof of our faith magnifies Jesus at His return.

Revelation

1. **Proof**. How do trials prove our faith? The proof of our faith appears when we greatly rejoice during various trials.
2. **Faith**. Peter wrote about our faith, and how God proves our faith.
3. **Precious**. The proof of our faith is more precious than gold.
4. **Gold**. Gold can be refined by being tested by fire.
5. **Perishable**. Our faith abounds in the fire of various trials, while gold will always be perishable.
6. **Honor**. Living fervently in the family of God means the proof of our faith results in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
7. **Revelation**. We rejoice today because at the revelation of Jesus Christ, the proof of our faith through various trials shines brightly.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by greatly rejoicing in the proof of our faith.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by looking forward to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remain strong in the faith as we are encounter various trials.**

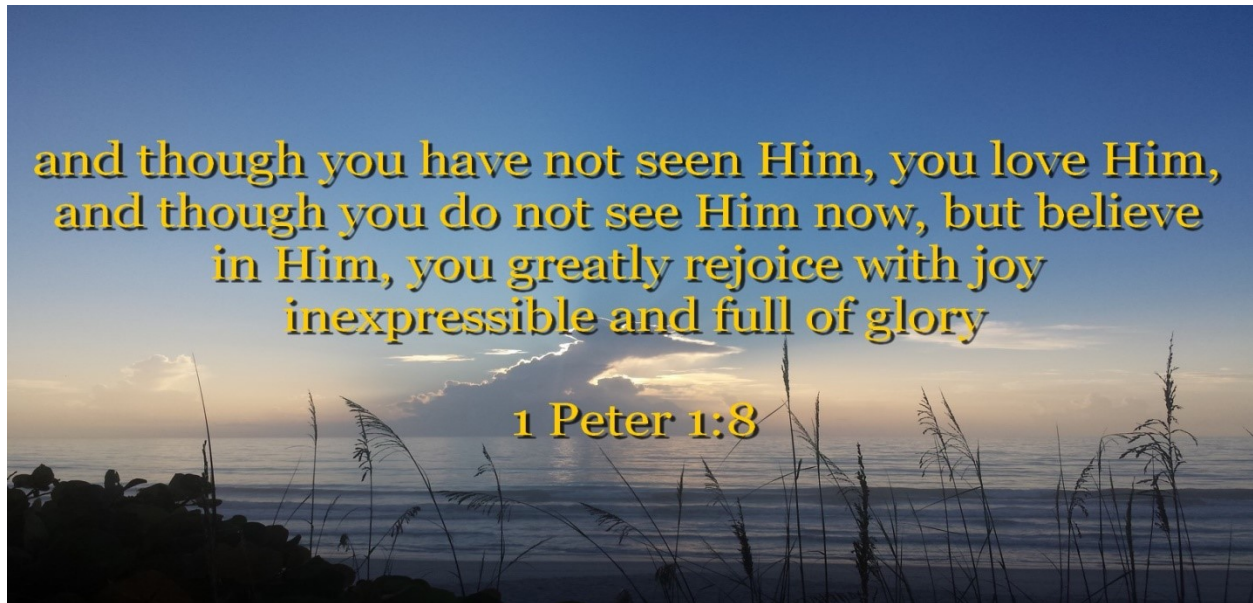
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for providing the strength of faith that never fails. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by looking forward to the proof of your faith resulting in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eight

Love Today



Why do we greatly rejoice today? We rejoice greatly because we love Jesus today.

We have not seen Jesus, but we love Jesus. Although we do not see Him now, but believe in Him, we greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. Believing in Jesus does not require seeing Jesus. Peter emphasizes the fact that believers do not need to see Jesus to believe. The old saying that seeing is believing does not apply to believers. We believe without seeing today.

Believing means that we have faith and faith means the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Therefore, when Peter emphasized that we have not seen Jesus, but believe in Jesus and love Him, he continues the same theology of believing without seeing.

Believing in Jesus also means that we rejoice in Him because of our faith. Our faith not only encompasses the present, but also looks to the

future, bringing us joy today. We greatly rejoice today with glorious joy, although we have not seen Jesus yet.

Joy

1. **Seen**. Must you see Jesus to love Him? We love Jesus, though we have never seen Jesus.

2. **Him**. We love Him without seeing Him.

3. **Love**. We love Jesus, though we do not see Him now.

4. **Though**. Though we do not see Jesus right now as we go through various trials, we still love Him.

5. **Now**. We do not see Jesus now, but we will see Him in the future.

6. **Believe**. Living fervently in the family of God means we greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory because we believe without seeing Jesus today.

7. **Joy**. We rejoice today with joy inexpressible and full of glory because we love Jesus without seeing Jesus today.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by loving Jesus, although we cannot see Jesus today.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by rejoicing with joy inexpressible and full of glory.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.**

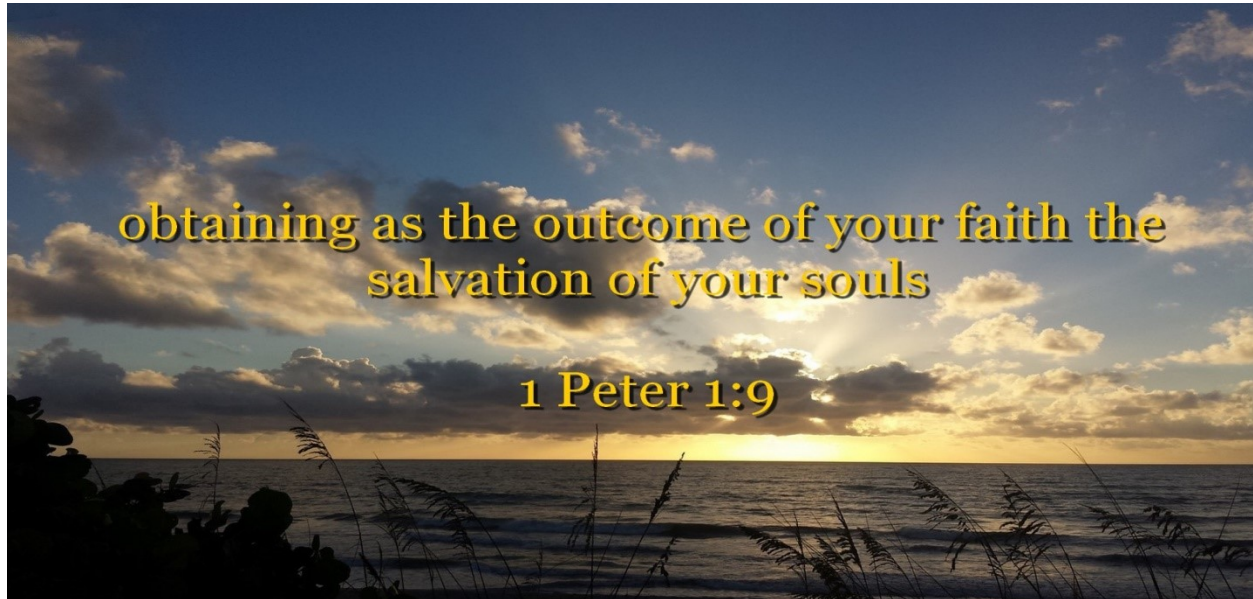
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by loving Jesus today with great joy, although we do not see Him now. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by greatly rejoicing today, although you do not see Jesus now?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Nine

Outcome Today



What do we obtain as the outcome of our faith? We obtain the salvation of our souls.

Salvation does not rest upon our good works. Our good works never send us to heaven and our bad works never cause us to lose our salvation. Only our faith produces salvation. Our faith comes as a gift from God which He purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ.

Our faith today produces wonderful results tomorrow. God uses various trials to prove our faith, which is more precious than gold, which perishes. Notice that our souls are saved. Like God Himself, humans have souls and God can save those souls by faith.

Faith works. Faith works in the lives of believers to produce salvation yet to be revealed at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ back to earth. Faith also works to produce joy inexpressible and full of glory today. Although we have not seen Jesus, we rejoice today because our faith works.

Our faith has an outcome, a consummation point. God gives us our faith and that faith has the outcome of salvation.

Salvation

1. **Obtaining**. What does our faith obtain? Our faith obtains the salvation of our souls.

2. **Outcome**. Our faith produces results, because even our faith was a gift of God.

3. **Your**. Peter talked about our faith, describing the faith of the saints scattered abroad.

4. **Faith**. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

5. **Salvation**. Salvation means many things in the New Testament, including the forgiveness of sins at the moment of faith in Jesus as Savior and also final salvation where we see Jesus face to face.

6. **Your**. Living fervently in the family of God means that our faith produces salvation at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

7. **Souls**. We rejoice today because our faith always produces the outcome of salvation when we see Jesus face to face.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that one day we will obtain the outcome of our faith, which is the salvation of our souls.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by trusting God to keep our future safe and secure.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God for His awesome power that keeps our souls safe in Him for all eternity.**

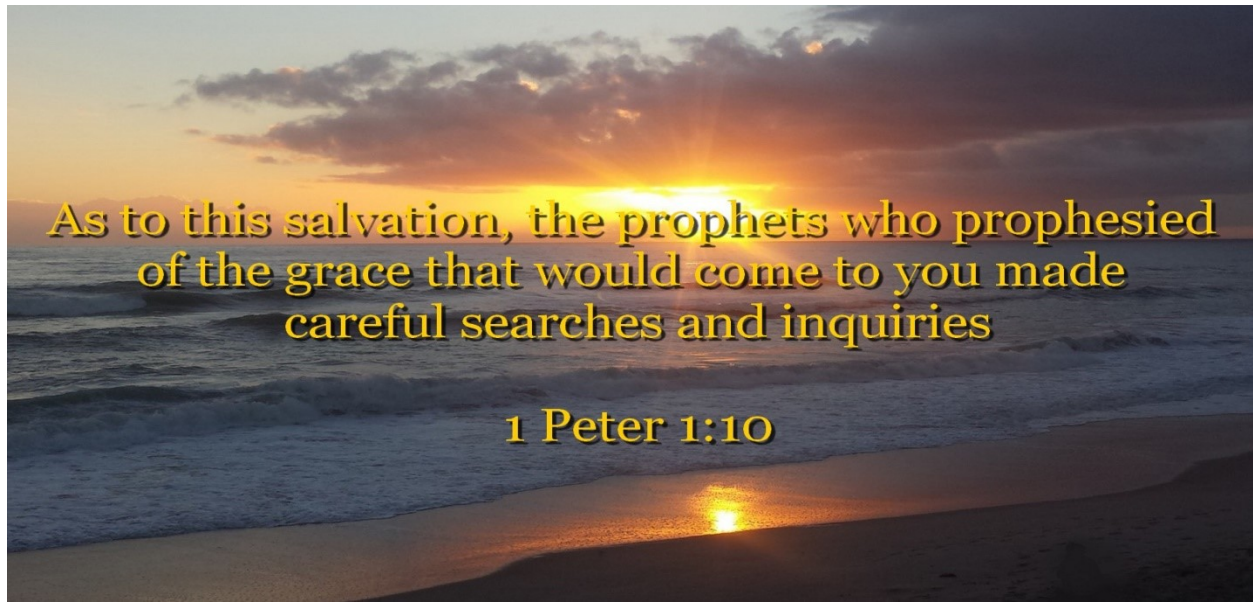
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in God Who keeps our souls safe for all eternity. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God for the certain outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ten

Prophets Today



What did the prophets prophesy about? The prophets prophesied about grace.

As to our great salvation, the prophets wanted to know about the grace coming through Jesus Christ. The prophets made careful searches and inquiries. They wanted to know more about the things God had revealed to them. The prophets received direct revelations from God through visions and dreams and other means. God always told His prophets the truth without any mixture of error.

The prophets often wanted to know more than what God revealed to them. Therefore, they looked into the matters God revealed to them. God's prophecy was not incomplete, because He revealed the future in steps using different prophets at different times. Many times the prophets were overwhelmed and frightened by the revelations they received from God. Those revelations aroused the curiosity of many prophets, prompting them

to want to know more and seeking out the truth. In other words, just because a prophet received a revelation from God about the future, does not mean the prophet fully comprehended the future or the revelation itself.

Inquiries

1. **Salvation**. Did the prophets fully understand their prophecies about salvation? No, because they made careful searches and inquiries about those prophecies.

2. **Prophets**. The prophets prophesied about our salvation today.

3. **Grace**. The grace of God was coming to save souls for all eternity.

4. **Made**. The prophets made careful searches and inquiries about the grace that would come to the believers scattered abroad.

5. **Careful**. The prophets were careful to search out the things God was speaking to them about the future.

6. **Searches**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we thank God for the prophets who made careful searches and inquiries about the grace to be revealed in the future.

7. **Inquiries**. We rejoice today because God showed the prophets the grace that would be revealed.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering the prophets making careful searches and inquiries.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by worshiping God who told the prophets of the grace that was coming.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by reading the prophets together and thanking God for the grace He has brought to all of us through the Lord Jesus Christ.**

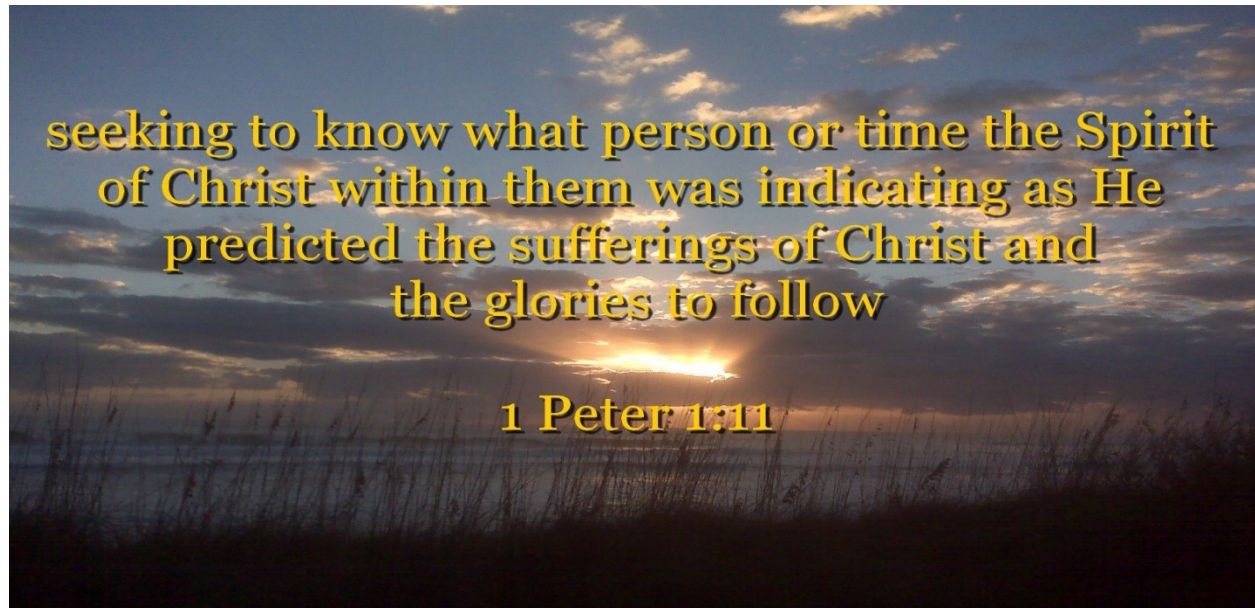
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that by grace through faith we have been saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eleven

Seeking Today



Why did the prophets make careful searches and inquiries? They were seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ was indicating to them.

The Old Testament prophets had the Spirit of Christ working within them. He was indicating the future sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. The prophets, however, did not fully grasp what the revelations they were writing down actually meant. Therefore, they were seeking to know more about the revelations they had received.

God revealed the future to prophets through dreams and visions. He did not mix truth and error in the prophecies, because God always tells the truth. Peter described these Old Testament prophets in the context of the Spirit of Christ speaking through them. Peter, a prophet in his own right, was looking back at the incarnation of Christ and His death and resurrection. The Old Testament prophets were looking off to the future, but all of them were God-appointed witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter provided New Testament insight into Old Testament prophets. Peter linked the prophecies from the Old Testament to the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow His work in the New Testament.

Christ

1. **Seeking**. What were the prophets seeking? They were seeking more knowledge.
2. **Know**. The prophets wanted to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ was talking about.
3. **Person**. The prophets did not fully understand that Christ would suffer.
4. **Time**. The prophets also do not understand the time that Christ would come and suffer, with glory to follow.
5. **Spirit**. The Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of prophecy.
6. **Sufferings**. Living fervently in the family of God means we now understand that the prophets spoke of the sufferings and glory of Christ, which they predicted centuries before Jesus took flesh.
7. **Glory**. We rejoice today because Jesus has been glorified after suffering for us on the cross.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering the prophets making searches and inquiries about Jesus.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by praising God for the Spirit of Christ revealing the future to the prophets.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the many Old Testament prophecies about the sufferings and glories of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

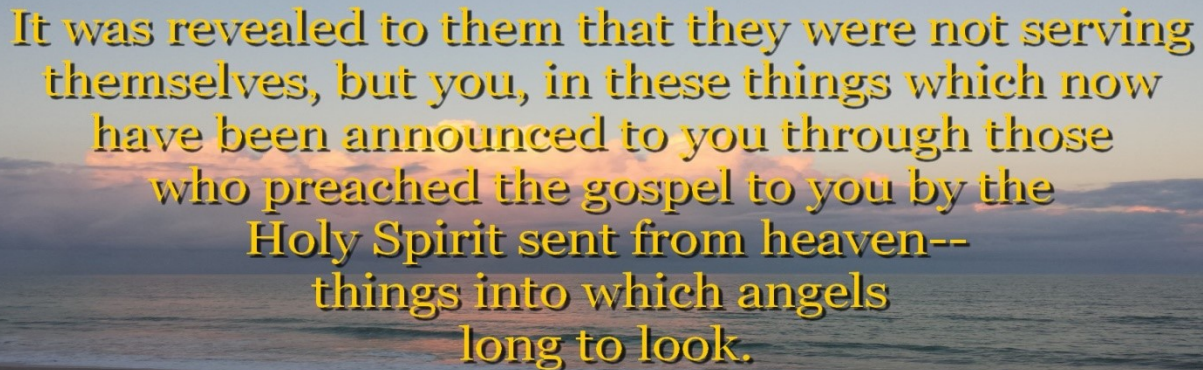
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for His suffering for us. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by rejoicing in the glorification of Jesus and His ascension to heaven?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twelve

Revealed Today



It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.

1 Peter 1:12

Who were the Old Testament prophets serving? They were not serving themselves, but the believers of Peter's day and today.

Although God left the prophets with many questions about the revelations He gave to them through the Spirit of Christ, He also revealed to them that they were serving future believers, including us. Peter described the target audience of the Old Testament prophets as the people who would receive the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. The Holy Spirit empowered the preaching of the Gospel.

At Pentecost following the ascension of Christ, the Holy Spirit filled the apostles and they began speaking in known languages to the audience assembled before them. Just as Jesus had prophesied, God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to fill the believers and Jesus baptized all the new believers into the church by baptizing them in the Holy Spirit, just as John the Baptist prophesied.

Therefore, we know that the Old Testament prophets received revelations through the Spirit of Christ for our benefit today. Even angels long to look into the revelations those prophets received.

Serving

1. **Revealed**. What was revealed to the prophets? It was revealed to them that they were serving us.

2. **Themselves**. The prophets were not serving themselves.

3. **You**. They were actually serving the people to whom the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ would be preached.

4. **Announced**. Those glad tidings were proclaimed by Peter and the other apostles, centuries after the prophecies were made.

5. **Preached**. Peter and the other apostles preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ describing His sufferings and glories to follow.

6. **Spirit**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we praise God for His revelation through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven to the apostles who proclaimed salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

7. **Angels**. We rejoice today because God revealed to the prophets of old things which angels long to look into.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that the Spirit of Christ revealed the sufferings of Christ to the Old Testament prophets.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation revealed through the ministry of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for laying the foundation of revelation through the prophets of old who served us today.**

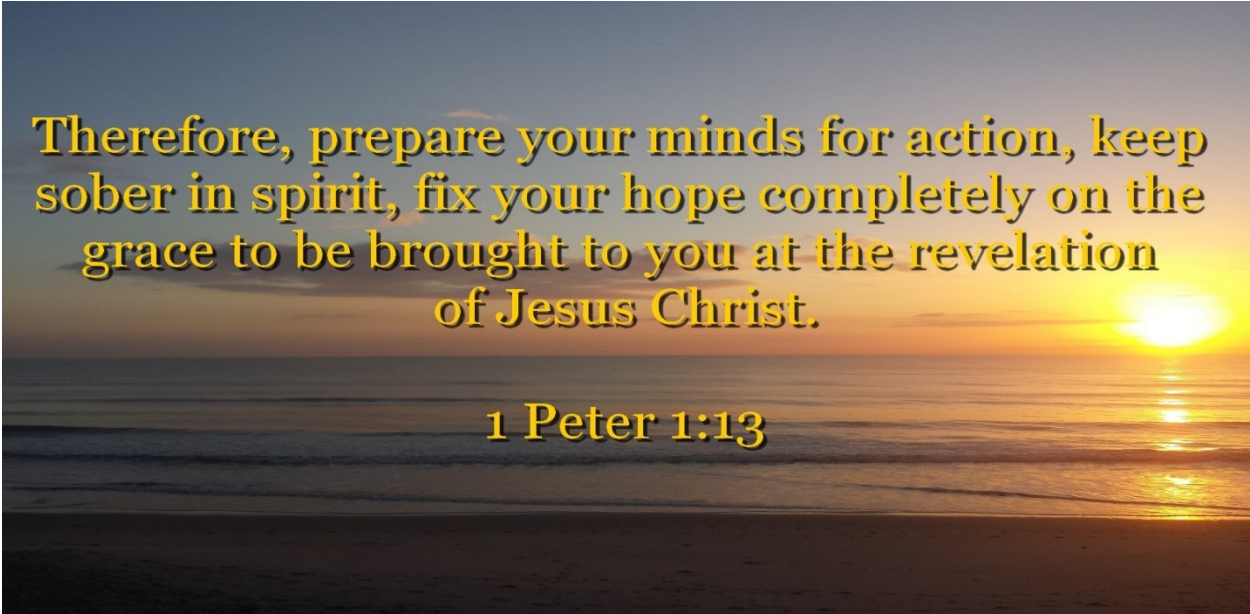
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the work of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ in revealing and proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to us. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirteen

Hope Today



Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13

What does it mean to gird up your loins? Peter told the believers scattered abroad to gird up their loins and be sober.

Peter meant that they should take action to be fully prepared for the revelation of Jesus Christ. The saints should live every day as if Jesus would appear that day and they would be ready for Him. Peter said that by living with our hope fixed upon the revelation of Christ, we would be pleasing to God as obedient children.

Peter explained the connection between our reasoning and our hope fixed upon the grace of God to be revealed in Christ at His appearing in the future. Peter used the term for reasoning that meant we give careful consideration today to the revelation of Christ in the future. Our hope today arises from reasoning about the future and the revelation of Christ. When Christ is revealed, our salvation will be fully realized. Until then we stay sober and ready with our reasoning, knowing that when Christ is revealed, we will be with Him.

Revelation

1. Therefore. Therefore, because of the revelation, what should we do today? We should focus upon the grace to be brought to us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Prepare. We must gather up the loins of our reasoning, being ready for action.

3. Minds. God used the term reasoning, indicating that we must use reason and comprehend the spiritual world based upon God's revelation.

4. Sober. Saints must be sober, meaning alert and ready.

5. Hope. We must fully hope upon the grace of God.

6. Grace. Living fervently in the family of God means we hope today upon the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed in the future when He returns.

7. Revelation. We rejoice today because Jesus really will come back to the earth to reign and be revealed then as the Lord of glory and power.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by being prepared and ready for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God as we hope for the grace to be revealed when Jesus returns.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by stimulating one another to love and good deeds as we see the day of Jesus approaching.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by setting our hope upon the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign upon the earth. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by hoping in the grace that will be revealed when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to reign upon this earth?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fourteen

Obedient Today



Can saints live in their former lusts? To avoid living in their former lusts, saints must live as obedient children.

God revealed to Peter that saints can live in their former lusts. Before they came to faith in Christ as Savior, the saints lived in ignorance and indulged their former lusts. God never wants us to live in those lusts, before or after salvation. Instead, God wants us to live as His children of obedience.

Although Jesus saved us from the death penalty for our sins, He intended we should never use His grace as a license to sin. On the contrary, because Jesus saved us by His grace and purchased us with His precious blood, we must live as His children. We should not bring shame upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ by indulging our former lusts once more.

Peter described the specifics of sinful lust. Peter explained that we are conformed to our former lusts. When we indulge our former lusts,

our lusts mold our behavior into sinful patterns. We break those patterns by no longer living in ignorance. We now live by the knowledge of the Son of God.

Ignorance

1. **Children**. What kind of children should we be? We should be children of obedience.

2. **Obedience**. Peter wrote to encourage the obedience of the children of God.

3. **Conformed**. The children of obedience must never be conformed to the former desires.

4. **Former**. The former desires focused upon lusts.

5. **Lusts**. Those lusts oppose our obedience to God.

6. **Your**. Living fervently in the family of God means saints no longer live in lusts which characterize their previous lives before they became the children of God.

7. **Ignorance**. We rejoice today because we no longer live in the lusts of our flesh which characterize the ignorance of our lives before we became the children of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by living as obedient children of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by obeying God, so that we no longer live according to the lusts which dominated our lives when we lived in ignorance.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God that we no longer live in ignorance according to our lusts.**

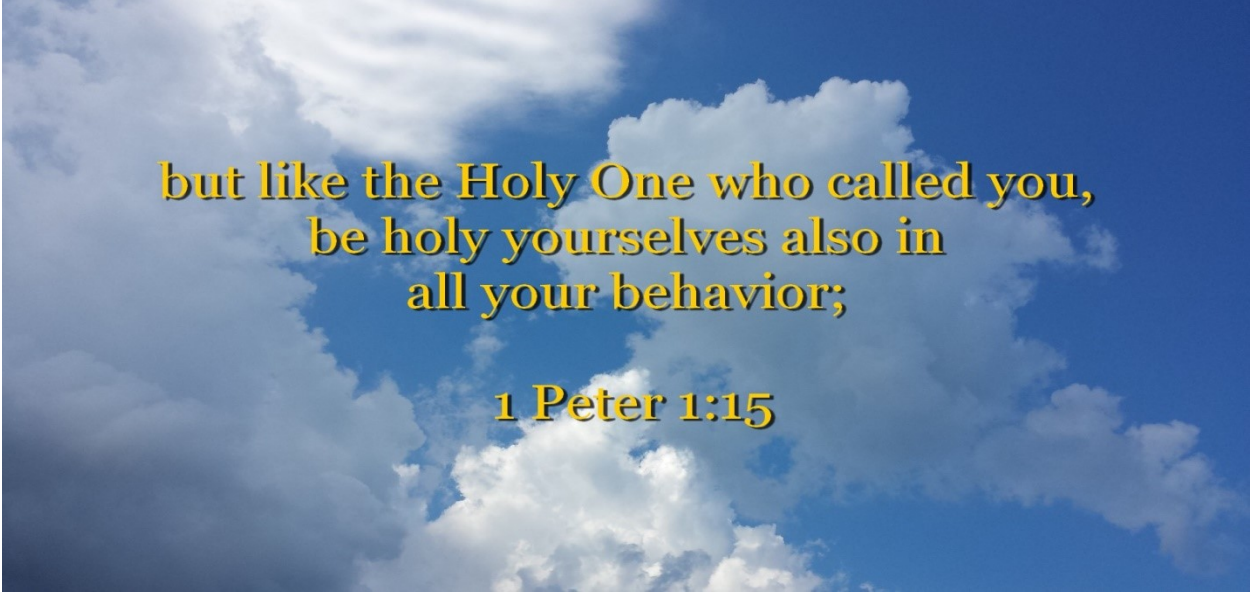
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing that we live as children of obedience to God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by thanking God you no longer live in the ignorance of your lusts?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifteen

Called Today



but like the Holy One who called you,
be holy yourselves also in
all your behavior;

1 Peter 1:15

Why should we live holy lives? We should live holy lives because the Holy One called us into His holy family.

God Himself sets the standard of holiness. He Himself is holy, has always been holy and will always be holy. As God in the flesh, Jesus became sin for us, and took the death penalty and suffering we all deserved. He became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Peter applied that same theology in commanding believers to be holy like the One Who called the saints. Because we have been born of the seed of Holy God, we cannot sin. God commands us to be holy in all our behavior. Although we may think we excel in holiness in some areas and not others, God said if we are unfaithful in small things, we will also be unfaithful in larger things. Therefore, God wants us to be holy in all of our behavior.

God does not make holiness in our lives optional. He commands us to be holy in all that we do. Jesus commanded us to follow Him, meaning that we follow Him in His holiness too.

Behavior

1. **Holy**. Can we live holy lives? God commands us to live holy lives and provides the power to do so.
2. **One**. God revealed that He is the Holy One.
3. **Called**. The Holy One called us to be His children of obedience.
4. **You**. The Holy One called you to Himself.
5. **Holy**. God commanded us to be holy because He is holy.
6. **All**. Living fervently in the family of God means that God intends for all of our behavior to be holy before Him.
7. **Behavior**. We rejoice today because we can live in the holiness of God in all we do all the time.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the holiness of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by living as obedient children who are holy in all our behavior.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God as the Holy One.**

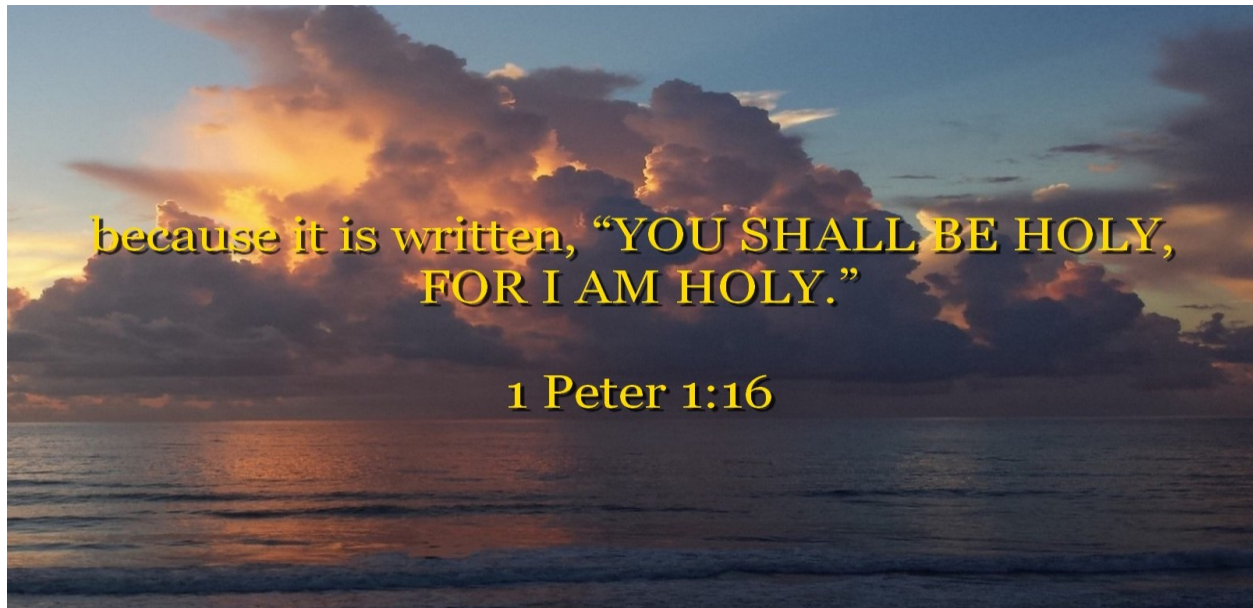
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by loving God more because we are the children of the Holy One. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by seeking holiness in all your behavior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixteen

Written Today



What did the prophets say about God's holiness? The Prophet said, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

The holiness of God dominates the Scriptures. Everything God does is holy. God's essential nature includes holiness. God refers to Himself as the Holy One.

The Holy One calls believers to Himself. God calls upon believers to be holy themselves in all their behavior. They should reflect the holiness of God the Father who called them. They should reflect the holiness of Jesus Christ who became sin for them.

God always sets the standard of holiness and commands His children to meet that standard by His power. God does not want us to pick and choose holiness in our lives. He commands holiness in all of our lives, every aspect of our lives. We all struggle with some areas in our lives

where we know we do not have the holiness of God there. Even so, the standard remains the same. God seeks to produce His holiness in every part of our lives all the time.

Holy

1. **Because**. Why must we live holy? Because God is Holy.
2. **Written**. Peter explained that God revealed to the Old Testament prophets that He is holy and so they must be holy.
3. **You**. If you are to live as obedient children of God, then you must obey God.
4. **Be**. God commanded us to be holy and to live like Him.
5. **Holy**. We have no holiness in ourselves apart from God's holiness which He gave us as a free gift in Jesus Christ.
6. **I**. Living fervently in the family of God means that God gives us holiness so that we can be and live like Him.
7. **Holy**. We rejoice today because we can live in the holiness of God in all we do all.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by understanding that God is holy.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by living holy because God is holy.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by the holiness of God which He brought into our lives.**

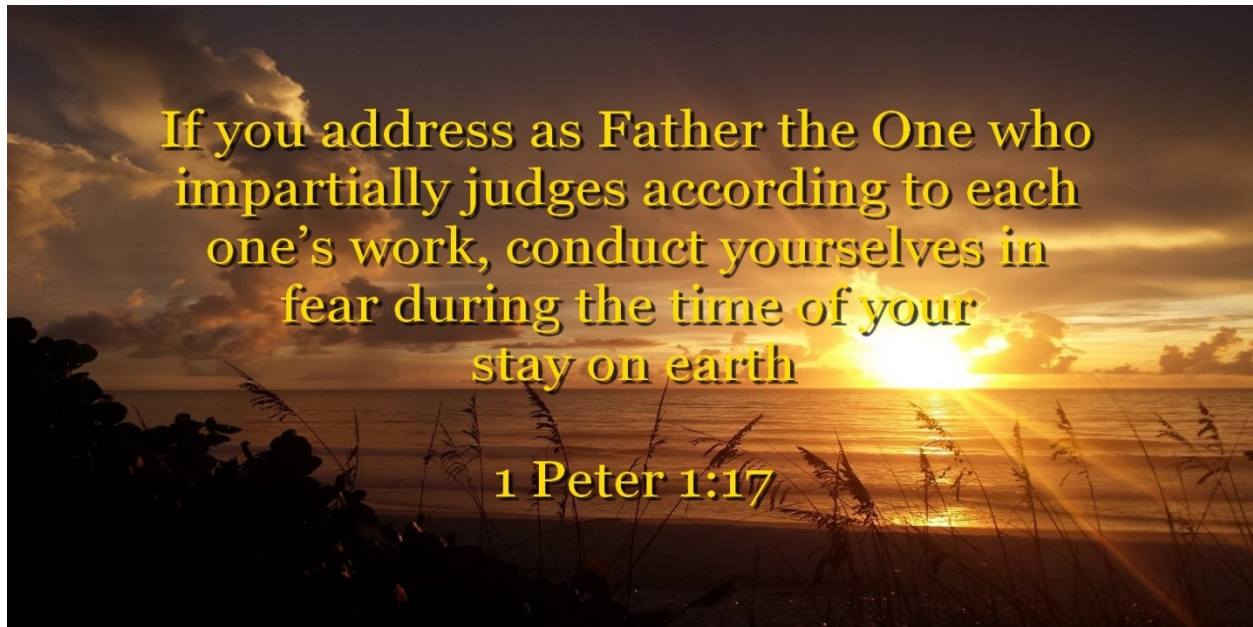
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that we should be holy because God is holy. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by being holy in all your behavior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventeen

Address Today



How does God judge people? God judges people with impartiality.

God does not care if you are rich or poor, black or white, male or female, Jew or Gentile. God judges everybody according to the same standard of His holiness and righteousness. Regarding salvation, God judges people according to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we address God as our Father, Peter warned us to keep in mind that He impartially judges according to each one's work. Because of the certainty of God's impartial judgment both today and tomorrow, we must conduct ourselves in fear. Today, people tend to try to minimize the fear we should have for God. Sometimes they want to limit it to reverential awe. While we should have reverential awe for God, the Greek word used by Peter means more than just reverential awe. It means downright fear. In this context, we fear stepping out of line, knowing that we grieve God and face discipline from God. Our salvation never becomes at risk, but all of our

works will be tried by fire at the judgment seat of Christ. God the Father has delivered all judgment to the Son. No believer will stand at the great white throne judgment, but every believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Conduct

1. **Address**. Should saints fear? Saints should fear God who judges them impartially.
2. **Father**. If we address God as Father, that means we should recognize that He also judges impartially.
3. **One**. God is the One Who judges the saints.
4. **Impartially**. God always judges impartially, meaning He uses the same righteous standard of judgment for everyone.
5. **Judges**. God judges the saints, but rewards them according to their deeds.
6. **Work**. Living fervently in the family of God means we live today knowing that God will impartially judge our works tomorrow, but we will never lose our salvation.
7. **Fear**. We rejoice today because we have a holy fear of God because we know that He impartially judges us according to our works for the purpose of rewards, not condemnation.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by maintaining a holy fear of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by remembering that God judges all saints impartially.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by addressing God as our Father.**

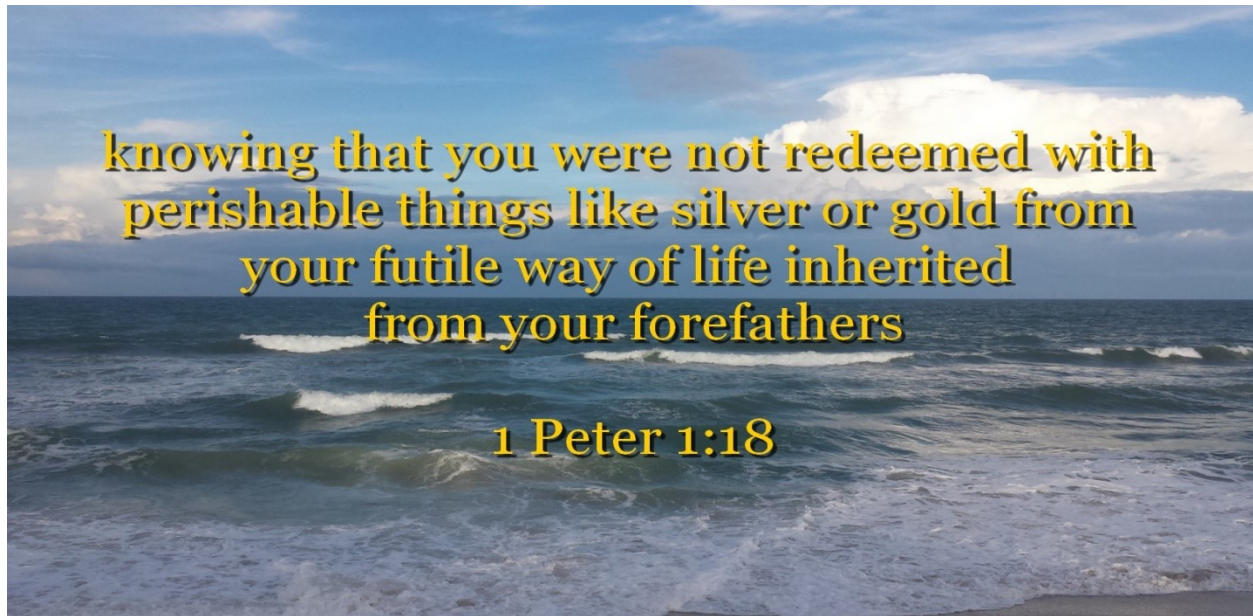
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God our Father impartially judges the saints. Will you live fervently in the family of God today, knowing you will be judged tomorrow according to your works for the purpose of rewards?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighteen

Redeemed Today



What did it take to redeem the saints? The redemption of the saints required something far more valuable than silver or gold.

Redemption means that God paid the penalty for sin that we all deserved. The wages of sin is death. We all deserve to die for our sins and experience the full wrath of God for our transgressions. By grace through faith, God saved us. That salvation is not of us nor of the will of man.

God wants us to keep knowing that we were redeemed from the futile way of life we inherited from our forefathers. Peter meant that the people of Israel scattered abroad came from generations of Jews who rejected God and His ways from the time He brought them out of Egypt into the promised land. They were rebellious and stiff-necked, opposing God and His leadership.

Our entire lives followed the path of futility before we came to Christ. While we may accumulate some degree of silver and gold, those

things never redeemed anyone from their sins. Only God can redeem people from sins. He redeems people because He loves them.

Futile

1. **Knowing**. How does our redemption affect our life today? We live according to the knowledge of redemption.

2. **Redeemed**. Redemption means that God bought us with the price of His Son's precious blood and Jesus paid the death penalty for all of us.

3. **Perishable**. We were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold.

4. **Futile**. We were redeemed from the futile way of life we inherited from our unbelieving forefathers.

5. **Way**. The way we lived before being born again testifies to the futility of our previous lives.

6. **Life**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we live today keeping in mind the redemption God paid for us.

7. **Forefathers**. We rejoice today because we no longer live in the futility of life inherited from our unbelieving forefathers.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering we were not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by living today in newness of life bought with the blood of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for paying the death penalty for us.**

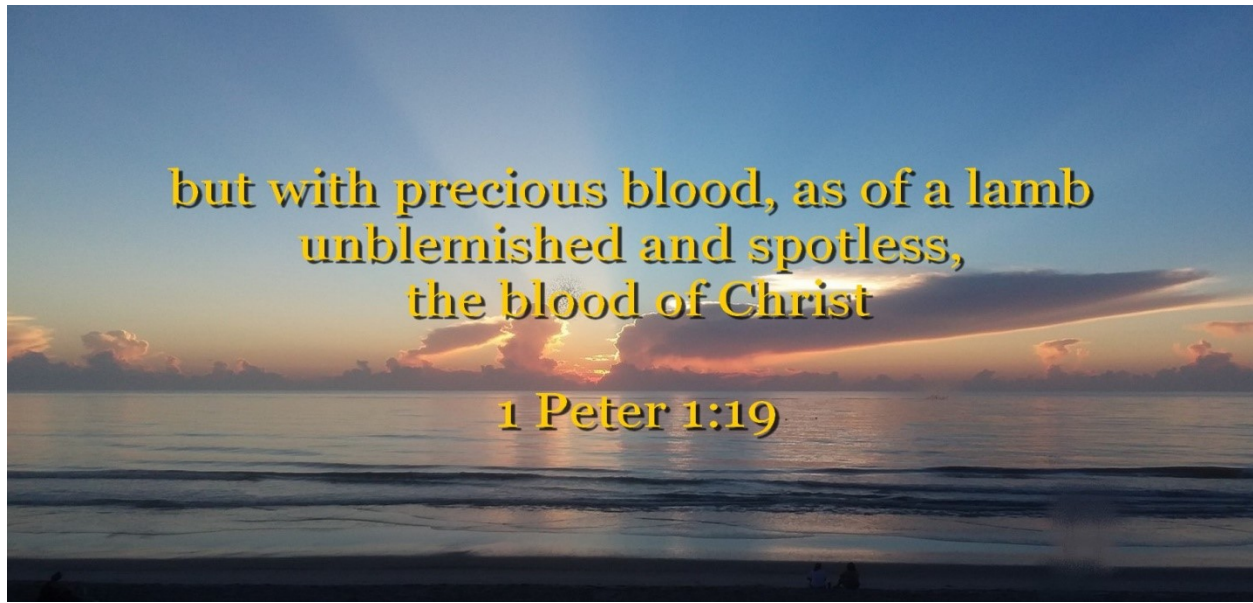
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for redeeming us from our futile way of life. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by lifting your high praise to God for the redemption of our souls?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Nineteen

Precious Blood Today



Who redeemed us from the penalty of our sins? Jesus redeemed us with His precious blood.

God the Father loves the world. We begin to understand the scope and magnitude of God's love when we consider that He did not withhold His only Son when it came time to pay the penalty for sin. Likewise, we begin to understand the love of Jesus Christ for us when we consider the price in life-blood He paid to redeem us from our sins.

Drawing upon Old Testament sacrifices, Peter described Jesus as the Lamb of God who was unblemished and spotless. God required the animal sacrificed to Him in the Old Testament to be unblemished and spotless. In other words, people should not sacrifice worthless animals, but the best of the flock. God the Father sacrificed His Son, Who was the Lamb of God, unblemished and spotless.

Peter emphasized that we should understand the cost of redemption as we consider how to live each day before a holy and righteous God.

We know that our works will be judged by Jesus, and so we should live in holiness today.

Unblemished

1. **Precious**. Whose precious blood redeemed us? The precious blood of Jesus of Nazareth.
2. **Blood**. God required a blood payment to redeem humanity.
3. **Lamb**. The Lamb of God, Jesus, gave His precious blood to redeem humans.
4. **Unblemished**. Jesus was holy, unblemished.
5. **Spotless**. Jesus was also spotless.
6. **Of**. Living fervently in the family of God means that the Lamb of God gave His blood as a perfect sacrifice for our sin.
7. **Christ**. We rejoice today because Jesus is the Christ of God Who lay down His own blood as a sacrifice for our sin.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering the precious blood of Jesus.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for sacrificing His only Son for our sins.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to praise God for the precious blood redeeming us once and for all.**

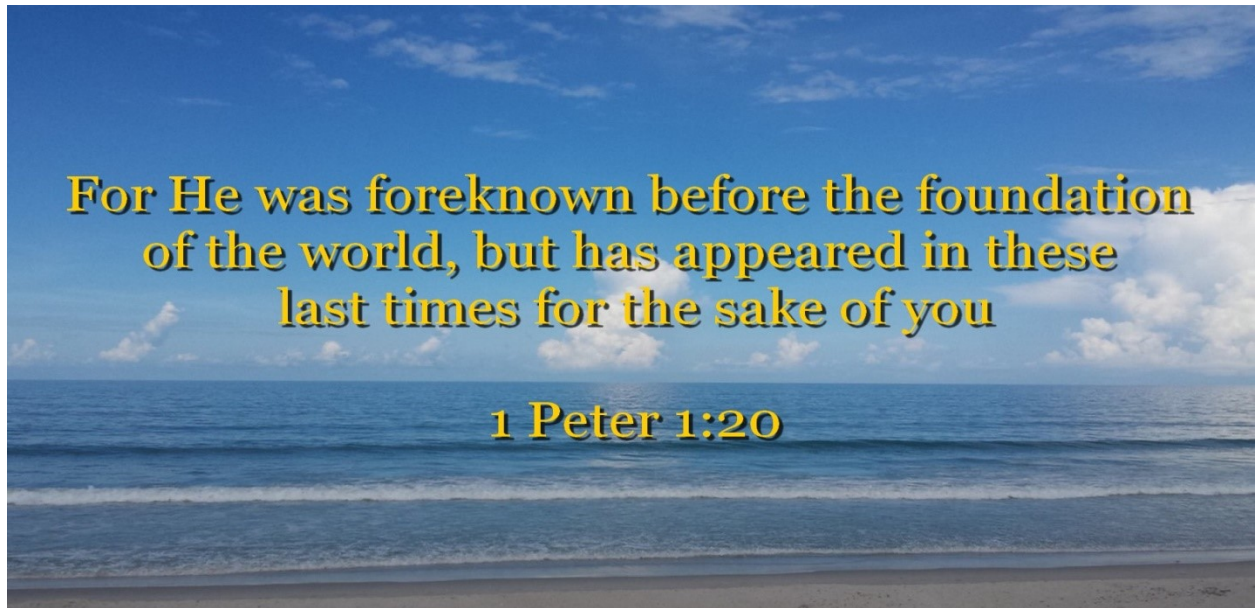
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that Jesus shed His blood and accomplished our redemption once and for all. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by walking worthy of the price that was paid for you by the precious blood of Jesus?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty

Foreknown Today



Who was foreknown before the foundation of the world? Jesus Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world.

Before God created the heavens and the earth, Jesus as Savior was foreknown. Knowing all things, God always plans for the future and the future never frustrates His plans.

God wants us to know that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Son of God had existed from eternity past and the plans of God had been laid long before. The Son of God took flesh and dwelt among us in these last times for our sake.

Jesus took flesh, prepared for Him by His Father, and then laid down His unblemished and spotless body for our sakes. As the Lamb of God, Jesus became our redemption so that we would live as the holy children of God. Peter reminds us of how we ought to live today based upon what happened before and what will happen tomorrow. Peter weaves theology into every area of our lives so that we live holy lives for God.

Appeared

1. **He**. Why did Christ appear? He appeared for our redemption.
2. **Foreknown**. Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world.
3. **Foundation**. Before the foundation of the world, God foreknew that the Lord Jesus Christ would lay down His life on earth for us.
4. **World**. Before God laid the foundations of the world, the plan of redemption had already begun.
5. **Appeared**. Jesus appeared for the purpose of redeeming us from our sins.
6. **Last**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we know we are living in the last days and Christ has appeared to redeem us from our sins.
7. **You**. We rejoice today because we know Jesus was foreknown as the Redeemer before the foundation of the world and has appeared for the sake of you.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by remembering that Jesus has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for sending Jesus in these last times for us.**

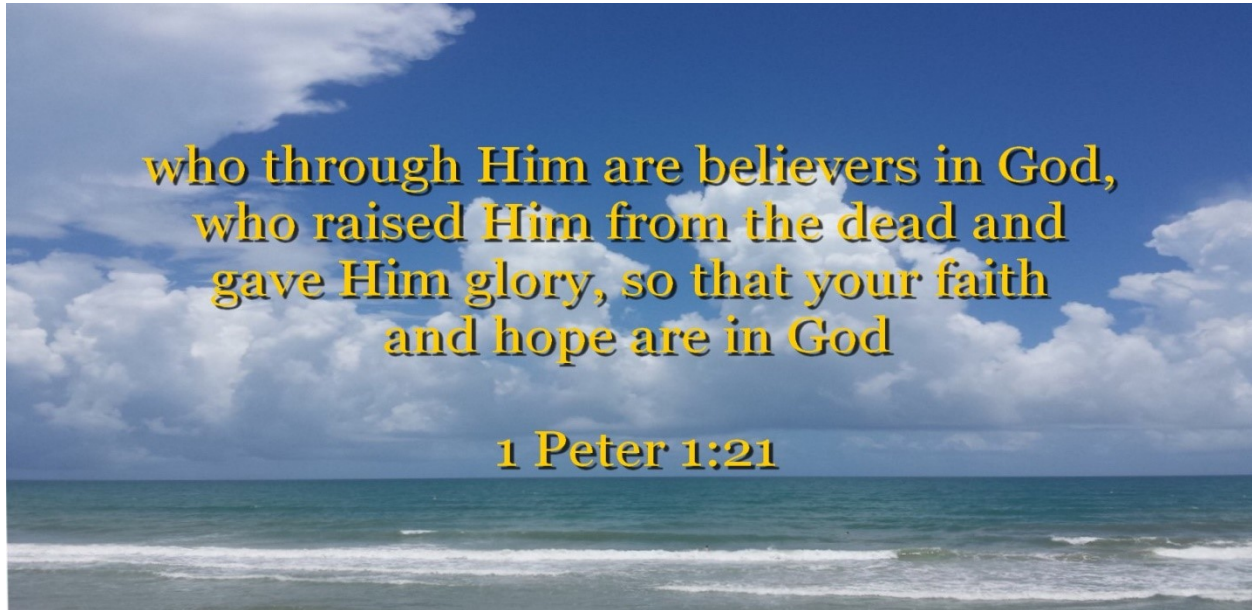
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by letting people know that Jesus has appeared in these last times for their sake?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty One

Believers Today



Through Whom are we believers? We are believers through the Lord Jesus Christ.

God revealed to Peter the basics about belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we are believers in God. God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory. God highly exalted the Lord Jesus Christ because of His obedience. Jesus set the perfect example of obedience for all of us to follow.

Peter also emphasized that Jesus was raised from the dead. On the third day, God raised Him from the dead. Many people saw Jesus after the resurrection and before His ascension. Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would still be in our sins and without hope in the world.

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory so that our faith and hope are in God. God wants us to understand how our faith and hope work together. They are centered in the Lord Jesus Christ who reveals the Father to us. As we gain a better understanding of the theology of

salvation, we love Jesus more because we see what the Father did to bring us to salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our faith and hope rest upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith

1. **Who**. How did we become believers in God? We became believers through the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Him**. We not only became believers through Him, but we continue our faith through the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Believers**. Our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ characterizes our lives as believers in God.

4. **Raised**. God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead as a crucial part of our faith.

5. **Gave**. God gave the Lord Jesus Christ glory.

6. **Faith**. Living fervently in the family of God means that our faith and hope are in God.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because the Father revealed the Lord Jesus Christ to us and the Lord Jesus Christ revealed the Father to us, so that our faith and hope are in God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that we have our faith in God through the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by understanding that our faith and hope are in God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God that He raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and gave Him glory.**

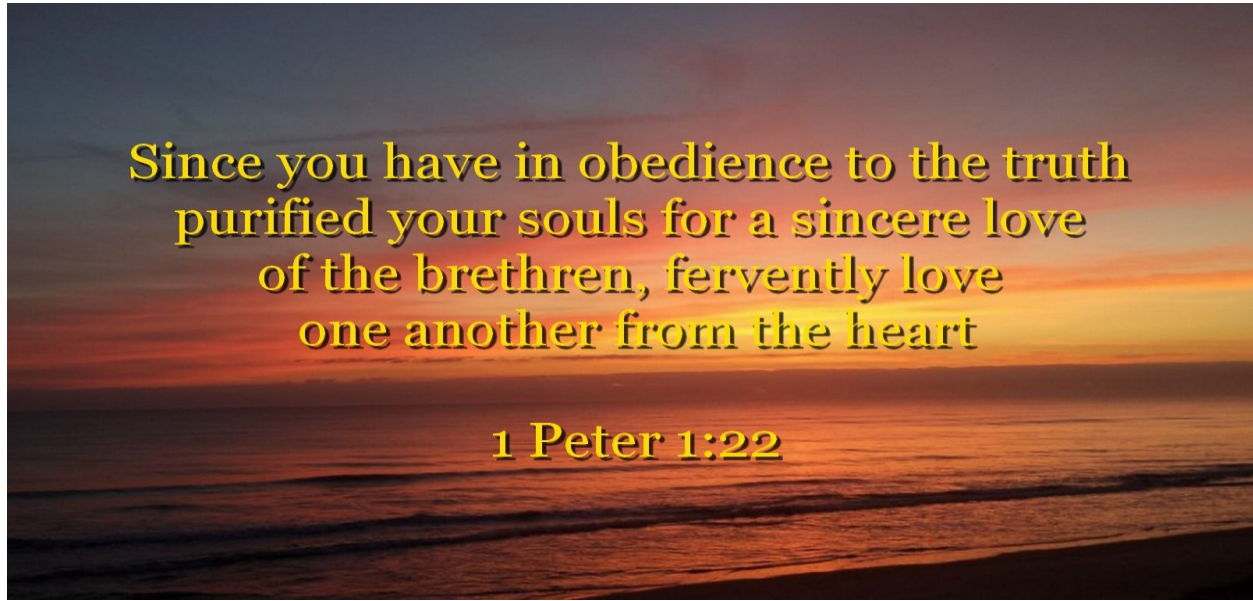
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God through the Lord Jesus Christ that our faith and hope are in God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God for raising Jesus from the dead and giving Him glory?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Two

Obedience Today



How do we purify our souls? We purify our souls through obedience to the truth.

God seeks for His children to purify themselves so that they will be holy even as He is holy. We are incapable of purifying ourselves, except for the power of God at work in our lives to produce holiness within us. God purifies our souls for a sincere love of the brethren.

God not only develops our love for Him, but He also wants us to have a sincere love for the brethren. Having our souls purified by the truth promotes love for one another. Because God is love, only the children of God love with the love of God.

God wants us to love one another fervently from the heart. Therefore, we see the relationship between our purified souls and our hearts that love fervently. Our heart and our soul work together to love God and love the family of God.

God shows us how we can love the family of God more. He wants us to love the family of God fervently from a sincere heart.

Fervently Love

1. **Obedience**. How does obedience to God influence our lives? Obedience purifies our souls.
2. **Truth**. We focus our obedience upon the truth.
3. **Purified**. We purify our souls by obedience to the truth.
4. **Souls**. Our souls require purification by obedience to the truth.
5. **Sincere**. Our obedience results in a sincere love for the brethren.
6. **Fervently**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we fervently love one another from the heart.
7. **Love**. We rejoice today because our love for one another comes straight from our hearts and from souls that are purified by obedience to the truth.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by purifying our souls by obedience to the truth.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God loving one another from the heart.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by remembering our love for the brethren comes from the heart and soul purified by obedience to the truth.**

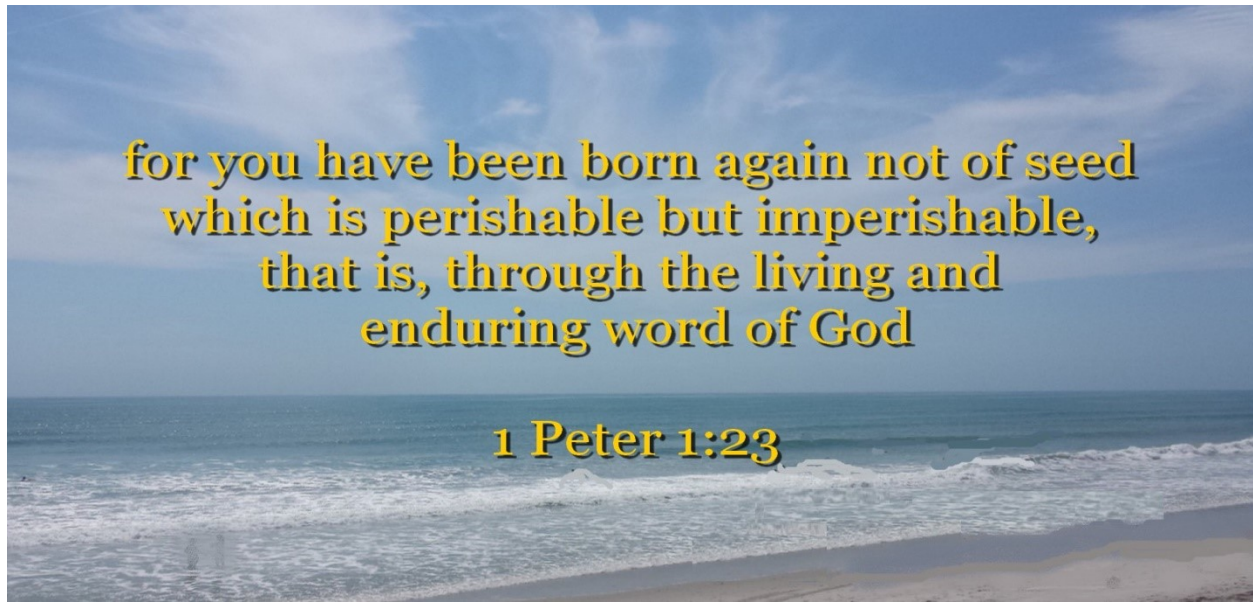
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by purifying our souls through obedience to the truth. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by loving the brethren from a sincere heart?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Three

Born Again Today



What kind of seed have we been born of? We have been born of the living and enduring word of God.

Peter emphasized that we have not been born again of seed which is perishable. Because we have been born of the seed of God, we have been born of imperishable seed. Therefore, we know we have eternal security and cannot lose our salvation. The seed that created us is imperishable and cannot pass away because it is the seed of God.

All believers share the same seed from God. Every family on earth and in heaven derives its name from God the Father. Therefore, we bow our knees before God confessing Him as our loving Father.

Peter has described, under the influence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, how we came to be in Christ and who we are in Christ. Then he described how we purify our souls and love the family of God. Peter has woven together clear instructions for how we can fulfill God's plan for our lives. He wants us to love Him and love each other because of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Enduring Word

1. **Born**. What seed have we been born from? We have been born from imperishable seed.
2. **Again**. God revealed that we have been born again.
3. **Seed**. We were born again by the seed of God.
4. **Perishable**. The seed of God is not perishable.
5. **Imperishable**. The seed of God is imperishable, because God wanted us to have an imperishable new birth.
6. **Living**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we praise God for being born of imperishable seed through the living and enduring word of God.
7. **Word**. We rejoice today that our salvation rests upon the living and enduring word of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation built upon the living and enduring word of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God worshiping God because we have been born of the imperishable seed of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by thanking God that His word is always living and enduring.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that we have been born of the imperishable seed of God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God that we have been born again through the living and enduring word of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Four

Flesh Today



What is human flesh like? Human flesh is like grass.

Having emphasized that we are born of imperishable seed from God, Peter then compares us to the grass of the field. He said that all flesh is like grass. All the glory of human flesh is like the flower of grass.

God revealed how wonderful it truly is to be born of the seed of God. Although God created our human flesh, it pales to insignificance compared to the glory of being born of the seed of God. Our human flesh decays day by day but our new person, born of the seed of God, remains imperishable, unfading, and without decay. Peter wanted us to remember that bright contrast between the temporary and the eternal. The things we see are temporal, like our human flesh. The things which are unseen, like the imperishable seed within us, remain eternal.

The grass withers and the flower falls off. Peter succinctly stated that our human flesh will certainly pass away along with its glory. On the contrary, the seed of God is imperishable and is created a brand-new being within us so that we have become a new creation in Christ.

Falls Off

1. **All**. What is all flesh like? All flesh is like grass.
2. **Flesh**. Human flesh is perishable.
3. **Grass**. Human flesh is like grass.
4. **Glory**. Human flesh is like the passing glory of the flower of grass.
5. **Flower**. The flower of grass may look beautiful today, but will be gone tomorrow.
6. **Withers**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we remember that the grass withers.
7. **Falls**. We rejoice today because human flesh is like the flower of grass which falls off but our lives in Christ endure forever.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that all flesh is like grass.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God understanding that the glory of the flesh is like a flower of grass that withers and falls off.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by reminding one another that the glory of human flesh is like the flower of grass that withers and falls off.**

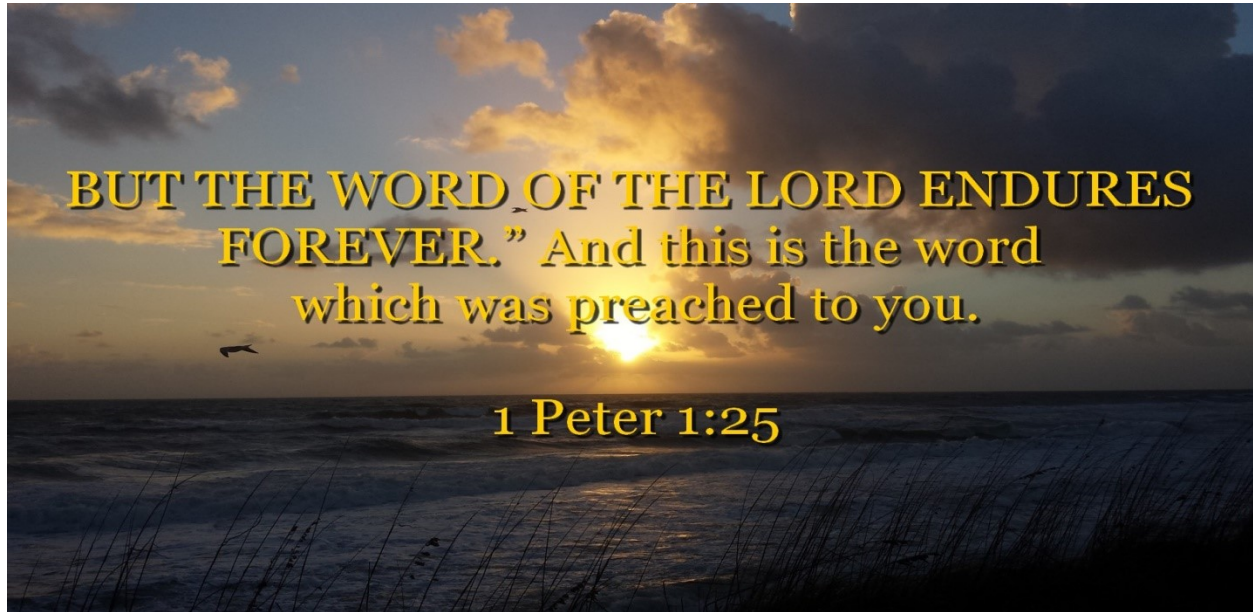
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that the flower of grass falls off just like human flesh withers. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering what God said about human flesh that withers falls off like a flower?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Five

Word Today



What was preached to the aliens scattered abroad? The word of the Lord was preached to the aliens scattered abroad.

Peter contrasted the grass of the field and its flower which falls away with the word of the Lord. The word of the Lord endures forever. The sanctifying work of God takes place through obedience to the truth. The word of God is truth and so Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified in the truth.

The word of God remains God's revelation of eternal truths. Because there is no darkness in God, His word remains absolutely true. He never mixes in truth with error in His revelations in the Bible. God cannot lie and never lies about the things He reveals to His word.

Peter also declared that he and the apostles proclaimed the enduring word of the Lord. There is no salvation in anyone except the Lord Jesus Christ. No other name has been given among men under heaven by which we must be saved. Jesus made a very exclusive claim to salvation and said

that no one comes to the Father but through Him. Therefore, we understand that the eternal Word of God which will never pass away provides the sole basis for our salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Preached

1. **But**. How is human flesh different from the word of the Lord? While the human flesh perishes, the word of the Lord endures forever.
2. **Word**. Peter preached the word of to the saints scattered abroad.
3. **Lord**. The Lord spoke the word and He created human flesh.
4. **Forever**. All words the Lord speaks endure forever.
5. **Word**. God spoke the word and created the heavens and the earth.
6. **Preached**. Living fervently in the family of God means Peter preached the word of salvation to the saints scattered abroad.
7. **You**. We rejoice today because we received the word of the Lord which endures forever and never perishes.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that the word of the Lord endures forever.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God to preach the word of the Lord which endures forever.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another that our faith rests upon the enduring word of the Lord.**

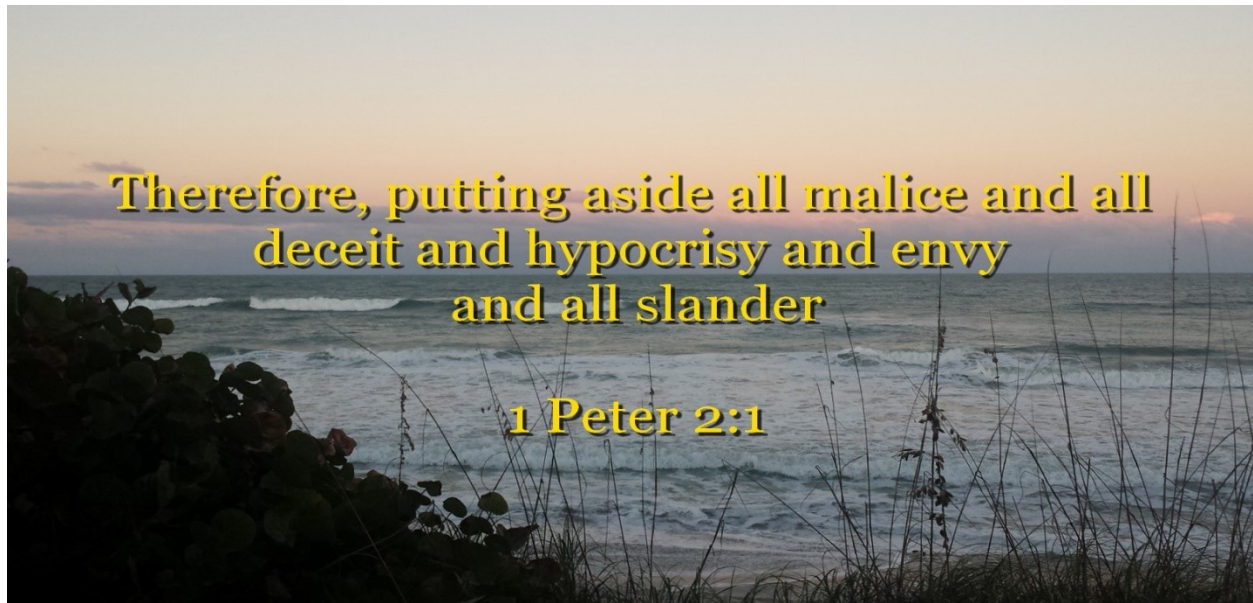
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that our faith rests upon the word of the Lord which endures forever. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God for His word which endures forever?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Six

Putting Aside Today



What must saints get rid of? They must put aside all malice and deceit and hypocrisy in envy and all slander.

When people are born again by the power of Jesus Christ, they often have bad habits cultivated over their lifetime. Malice means that they act with evil intent. Deceit means they intentionally try mislead people. Envy means that they want stuff that other people own. Slander means people say things about others that are not true.

Because God is holy, we must be holy also. Therefore, we must put aside all of our old bad habits. Before we came to Christ, we lacked the power to solve those big problems in our lives. After salvation, as newborn babies in Christ, He brings all of His divine power into our lives. As we learn the word of truth found in the Scriptures, God purifies our souls for a sincere love of the brethren. That love we have for one another helps to extinguish those bad habits.

Because we have been born of the seed of God which is imperishable and holy, we must live in obedience to the truth. The truth of God we find in the Scriptures and they will help us overcome all of our bad habits.

All Deceit

1. **Therefore**. What conclusion did Peter draw? Peter drew the conclusion that we should live without evil in our lives.

2. **Putting**. Saints must put away all evil behavior.

3. **Malice**. Saints should live without malice, meaning that we have no evil motive in our heart.

4. **Deceit**. Saints should live without deceit, meaning that saints should not try to deceive people.

5. **Hypocrisy**. Saints should live without hypocrisy, meaning we should not say one thing and do the opposite.

6. **Envy**. Living fervently in the family of God means that saints should live without envy, meaning that we should not desire things that belong to other people.

7. **Slander**. Living fervently in the family of God means we do not speak evil about other people.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by putting away all evil things.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God putting aside all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by loving Jesus more because He loves to remove evil things from our lives.**

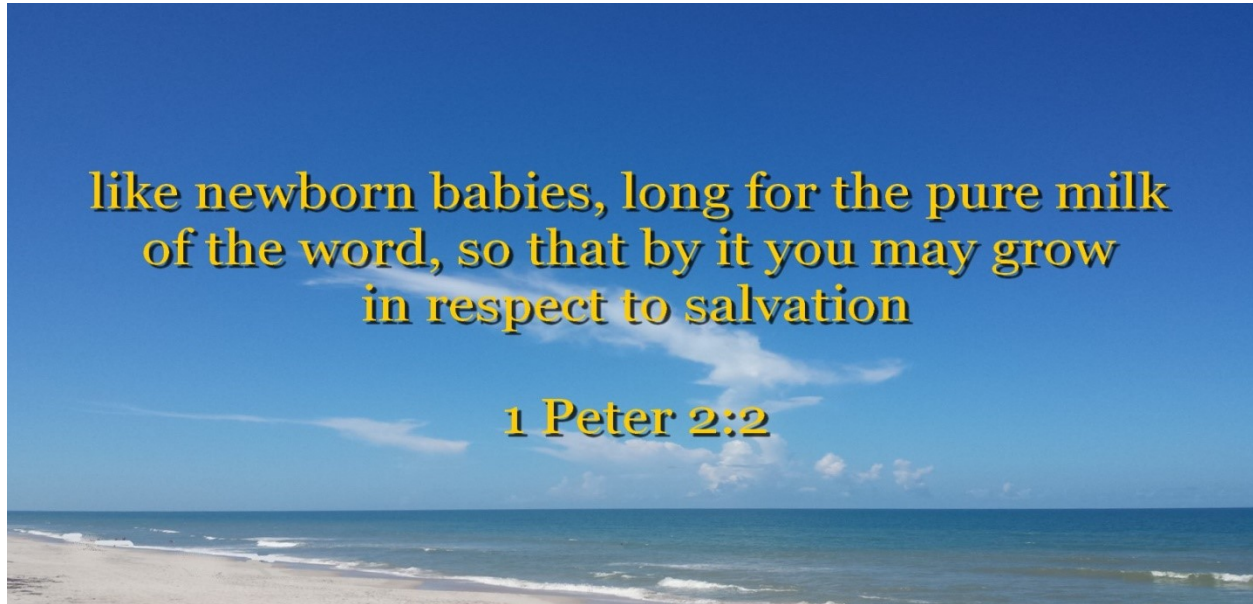
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by putting away all the evil things. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to live a holy life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Seven

Babies Today



What does the pure milk of the word do for newborn babies? The pure milk helps them grow in respect to salvation.

Like many things in the Christian life, salvation has many aspects to it. Salvation means that we gain eternal life at the moment we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead and we accept His free gift of eternal life. Salvation also means that in the future the day of our salvation will come into full bloom when we see Jesus. Salvation also means that we live out our salvation every day and grow up in our salvation every day.

Peter was instructing the newborn babies in Christ that they needed to grow up with respect to salvation. Although they were saved at the moment they had saving faith in Christ for salvation, their salvation continues every day. Once saved, all believers are always saved. Under no circumstances can a believer lose their salvation. Even so, God commands us to grow up and be holy for God is holy.

We grow in our salvation through the pure milk of the word. Therefore, new believers must be given the pure milk of the word frequently.

Grow

1. **Newborn**. What do newborns long for? They long for pure milk.
2. **Long**. Young believers long for the pure milk of the word.
3. **Milk**. The milk of the word of God sustains young believers.
4. **Word**. The word of truth helps newborns grow up in Christ.
5. **Grow**. Jesus desires for all newborns to grow up in Him.
6. **Respect**. Living fervently in the family of God means we grow in respect to salvation through the word of God.
7. **Salvation**. We rejoice today because God wants us to grow in our salvation every day.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by growing up in Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by helping newborn babies in Christ grow up by giving them the pure milk of the word.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by sharing the word with newborn babies so that they may grow up in Christ.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by sharing the word with newborn babies to help them grow up in Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by loving the newborn babies in Christ and sharing the word of God with them?

HALLELUJAH!

3

Priesthood

Today

Saints come to Christ as a living stone which is been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God. Saints are living stones built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. They are a royal priesthood and a holy nation, so that they may proclaim the excellencies of Him Who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Because they are holy and royal priests, saints must abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. They must keep their behavior excellent among the Gentiles so that they may glorify God in the day of visitation.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twenty Eight

Tasted Today



Who are the only people can grow in their salvation? The only people who grow in their salvation are the people who have tasted of the kindness of the Lord.

Peter described salvation as part of the kindness of God. Because the essential nature of God includes love, His kindness grows out of that love. God pours out His love upon us every day and expects us to grow in our salvation every day.

Newborn babies cannot care for themselves or feed themselves. Likewise, newborn Christians require care and feeding frequently. Older believers provide them with the pure milk of the word. The newborns must take the word in to grow in respect to salvation. Happily, the newborn babies in Christ long for the pure milk of the word.

God also makes a promise here that newborn babies will grow as they taste of the kindness of the Lord and take in the milk of the word. The milk causes them to grow and supplies the essential nutrients they need for spiritual growth.

Kindness

1. **If**. Who grows through the milk of the word? Only those people who have tasted of the kindness of the Lord.
2. **You**. Peter wrote to those who were saints, the elect and chosen of God.
3. **Tasted**. All born-again people have tasted of the kindness of the Lord.
4. **The**. The kindness of the Lord provides a taste unlike any other.
5. **Kindness**. The Lord gives us what we do not deserve as a free gift as an expression of His kindness.
6. **The**. Living fervently in the family of God means we know the Lord provides for us according to His kindness every day.
7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because the kindness of the Lord sustains us in every way, every day.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for His kindness.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God helping people taste of the kindness of the Lord.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by sharing the kindness of the Lord with each other every day.**

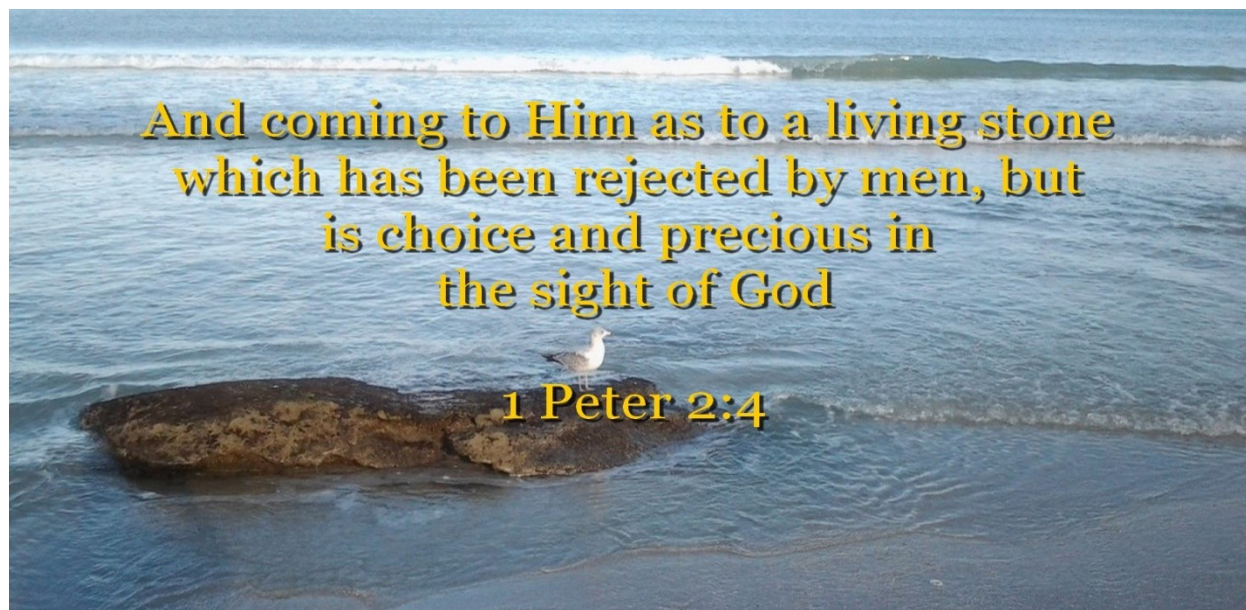
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by luxuriating in the kindness of the Lord. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by sharing the kindness of the Lord with somebody?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Twenty Nine

Living Stone Today



How do we come to Jesus? We come to Jesus as to a Living Stone.

When we come to Christ as a Living Stone, we remember that people rejected the Lord Jesus. Jesus came to His own and His own did not receive Him. In fact, His own people had Him crucified. Jesus created all people everywhere, and He called the people of Israel His chosen people. Even His chosen people rejected Him as Savior, despite the signs and wonders that He displayed for them.

In contrast, believers came to Christ as to a Living Stone. He is choice and precious in the sight of God. God the Father looks upon Jesus as His beloved Son. While other people reject Jesus, saints accept Jesus as Savior.

God opened our eyes so that we can see Jesus as He truly is. Jesus is the Living Stone that became the Head of the corner. Jesus is the focal point of the entire building. Jesus builds believers into a brand-new, living

building. Just as Christ lives, so we also live in Him. Jesus transforms our lives and will build us up in Him. Jesus promised to build His church and He does that every day.

Precious

1. **Coming**. What is Jesus like? We come to Jesus as to a Living Stone.
2. **Him**. We come to Him through faith and taste of His kindness.
3. **Living**. Jesus is a Living Stone, full of eternal life.
4. **Rejected**. Jesus was rejected by men, although He created all men.
5. **Choice**. Jesus is choice and precious in the sight of God, Who loves Him as an only Son.
6. **Sight**. Living fervently in the family of God means Jesus stands in the sight of God every day as an obedient and beloved Son.
7. **God**. We rejoice today because we stand with Jesus as part of the beloved family of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that Jesus was rejected by men.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God praising God because Jesus is always precious in the sight of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for sacrificing His precious Son for our salvation.**

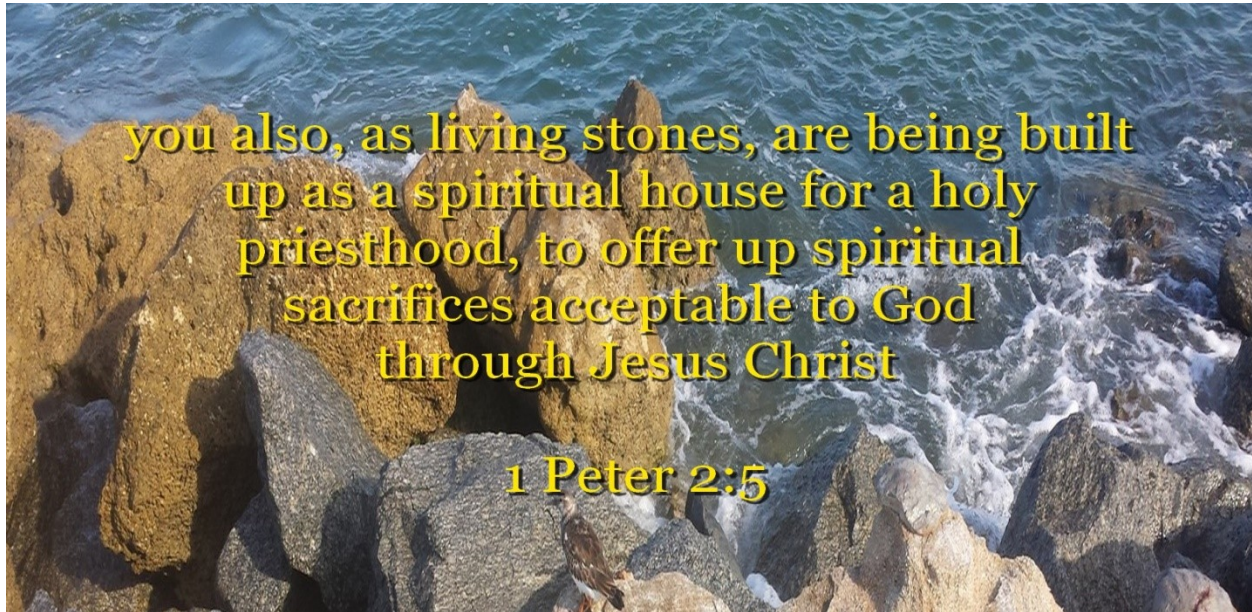
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus who is always precious in the sight of God, although rejected by men. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by leading people to Jesus as a Living Stone, precious in the sight of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty

Built Today



What happens when we come to Jesus? We become living stones.

At the moment of salvation, we become living stones. Jesus is the Living Stone, and God builds us into a spiritual house. We also become part of a spiritual priesthood.

In the Old Testament the priests were taken from a particular tribe of Israel. God selected priests from the tribe of Levi. In the New Testament both Jews and Gentiles become spiritual priests of God at the moment of salvation. In other words, the Scriptures teach the priesthood of all believers.

As part of a spiritual priesthood created by God and built together into the church of Jesus Christ, every saint has a duty to offer sacrifices to God. Because God has sanctified us and built us up into a holy priesthood for Himself, God now accepts our spiritual sacrifices through the Lord Jesus Christ. God intends for all saints to offer spiritual sacrifices every day.

Newborn babies are living stones and built up as a house of holy priests. Even newborn babes in Christ need to learn to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. They need spiritual help every day.

Acceptable

1. **You**. What do we offer to God? We offer sacrifices acceptable to God.
2. **Living**. We are living stones which God is building into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood.
3. **Built**. In God we are built together.
4. **Spiritual**. Together we form a spiritual house for service to God.
5. **Priesthood**. We are a holy priesthood.
6. **Sacrifices**. Living fervently in the family of God means that as holy priests we offer spiritual sacrifices to God.
7. **Acceptable**. We rejoice today because we offer acceptable sacrifices to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering we are living stones.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God understanding that we are being built together into a house for a holy priesthood.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.**

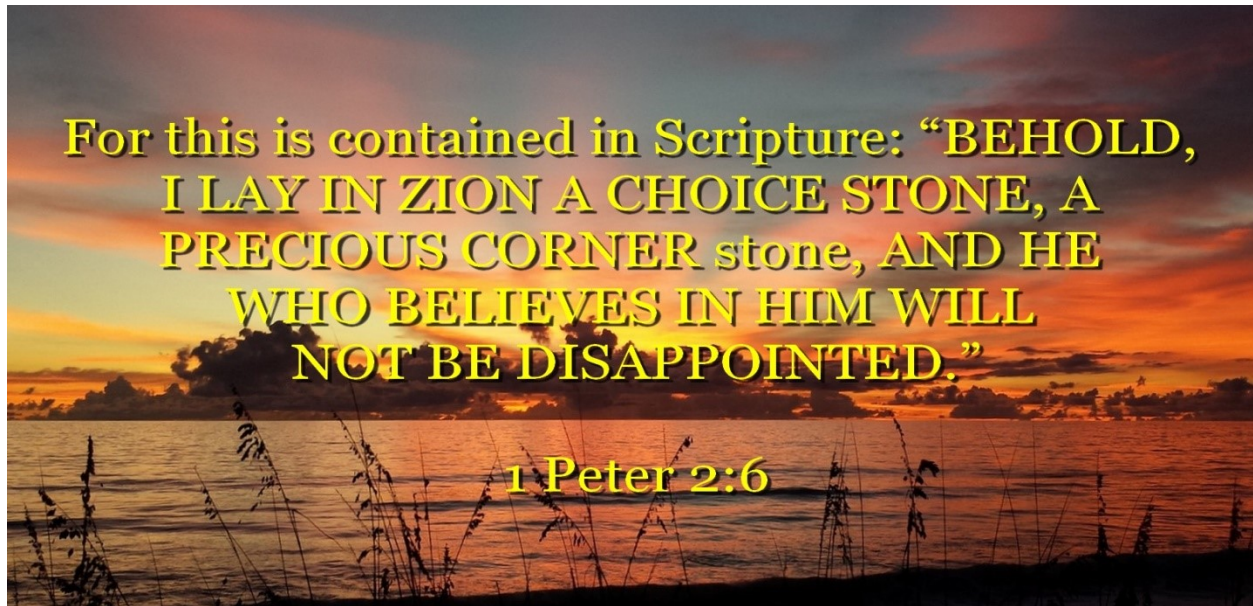
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by thanking God that we are His priesthood chosen to offer spiritual sacrifices to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty One

Precious Today



Who laid a cornerstone in Zion? God laid a cornerstone in Zion.

God quoted the Scriptures about Jesus. God called Jesus the Cornerstone. Notice that God did the building and He started with the Cornerstone. God chose a choice Stone, a precious Cornerstone. In other words, God the Father brought Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, to Jerusalem for the purpose of building His church there.

God said that whoever believes in Jesus will not be disappointed. God makes sweeping prophecies throughout the Bible. When God prophesied that no one from any generation would be disappointed if they believed in Him, He meant it. No one has ever been disappointed who truly believed in Jesus. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. God cannot lie. Therefore, whatever He promises will always come true.

Just as certainly as He laid the Cornerstone in Zion, so also God will secure the salvation of everyone who believes in Jesus so that no one will

ever be disappointed. Simply put, God's promises never fail. We can always place our trust in God and His word.

Believes

1. **Scripture**. What did the Scriptures say about a precious Cornerstone? The Scriptures say that God laid a precious cornerstone in Zion.

2. **I**. God said, "I lay in Zion a Choice Stone."

3. **Zion**. Zion refers to Jerusalem in Israel.

4. **Stone**. The people of Israel built a Temple with stones, but God laid a unique Stone in Jerusalem.

5. **Corner**. God laid the precious Cornerstone, a choice Stone, in Zion.

6. **Believes**. Living fervently in the family of God means whoever believes in the Cornerstone will not be disappointed.

7. **Disappointed**. We rejoice today that whoever believes in the Cornerstone will never be disappointed because He laid the Cornerstone in Zion and it cannot be moved.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering God laid a precious Cornerstone in Zion.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God praising Jesus for being the Cornerstone of the Church.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God for laying in Zion the precious, choice Cornerstone.**

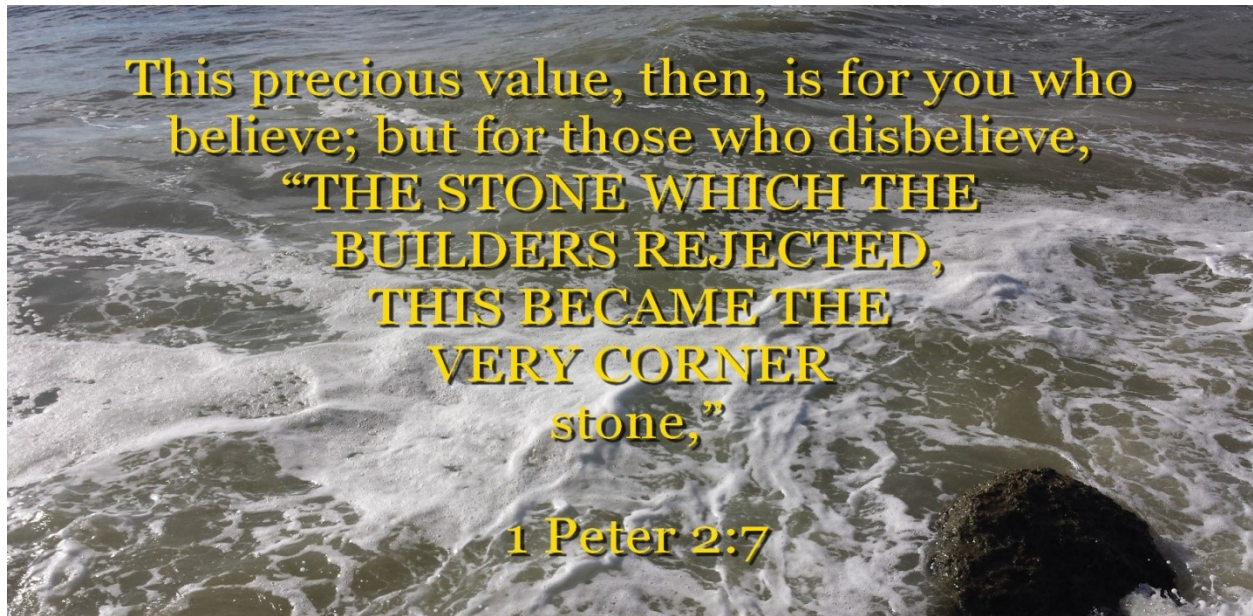
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for Jesus being the choice, precious Cornerstone. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by loving Jesus as the Cornerstone?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Two

Stone Today



Why did God lay the Cornerstone? God laid the Cornerstone for those who believe.

God not only laid the precious Cornerstone in Zion, but He also prophesied that the Stone which the builders rejected became the very Cornerstone. The prophets spoke the word of God in the Old Testament. They looked forward to God laying the Cornerstone in Zion.

In the New Testament God revealed how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. Jesus was indeed the Stone which the builders rejected. Jesus came to the people of Israel and they rejected Jesus as Savior. In fact, the Jewish leaders had Christ crucified with hearty approval of the crowd.

Even so, Jesus became the very Cornerstone upon which the whole church was built. God planned on Jesus laying down His soul for the world and then taking His soul up again. God raised Jesus on the third day after His crucifixion.

Rejected

1. **Precious**. Why is the Cornerstone precious? Because Jesus is the Cornerstone and He is precious and valuable. He laid down His soul to become the Cornerstone.

2. **You**. You, the believers, know the value of the precious Cornerstone.

3. **Believe**. Faith in the Cornerstone makes all the difference for those people who believe.

4. **Disbelieve**. For those who disbelieve in the Cornerstone, God still made Him the Cornerstone.

5. **Rejected**. The builders rejected the Cornerstone.

6. **Became**. Living fervently in the family of God means the builders had nothing to do with laying the Cornerstone, because God Himself laid the Cornerstone.

7. **Corner**. We rejoice today because God made Jesus the Corner, the stone upon which all other stones rely for proper placement.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God laid the Cornerstone, despite the builders rejecting that precious Stone.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by understanding the plans of God benefit the faithful, but create serious consequences for the unfaithful.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping Jesus, the Cornerstone laid by God in Zion.**

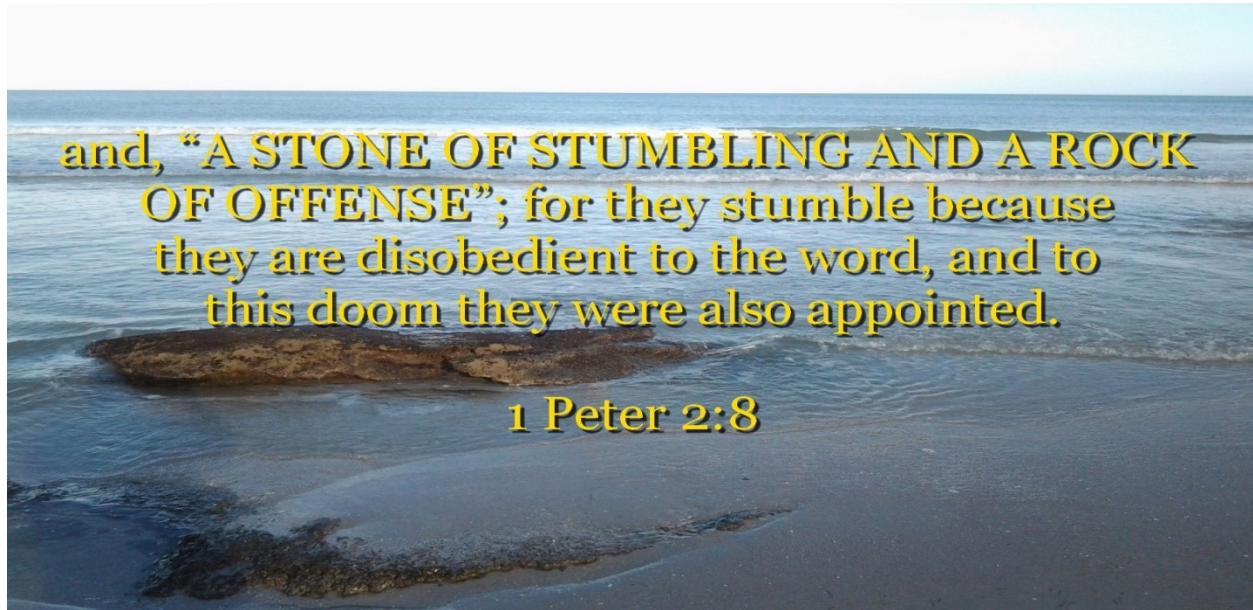
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that the builders rejected the precious Cornerstone. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus is the Cornerstone, holy and precious in the sight of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Three

Rock of Offense Today



Why do people stumble over the Cornerstone? They stumble because they are disobedient to the word.

The Cornerstone became a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to the people of Israel and all others who rejected Jesus as Savior. The Jewish leaders hated Jesus so much that they conspired to crucify Him. Only because Jesus was willing to lay down His life to redeem a people for His own possession did the crucifixion plan of the religious leaders achieve its goal. While they thought they had won a great victory, in fact they suffered their most serious defeat when they rejected Jesus with eternally terrible consequences for them. They had stumbled and fallen over the Cornerstone.

They stumbled because they were disobedient to the word of God. Then claimed to know God, but in fact they never knew God. If they knew God, then they would have known Jesus, the Son of God. Because they rejected Jesus as Savior and crucified Him, they actually testified against themselves that they never knew God and rejected God as Savior.

Therefore, they had no hope of salvation and in fact had been appointed to destruction. God's plans can never be frustrated, but sinful men stumble and fall over Jesus Christ, the precious Cornerstone.

Doom

1. **Stone**. Why was the Cornerstone called a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense? Because the builders rejected Jesus and found Him to be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.

2. **Stumbling**. Jesus became a stone of stumbling to the builders.

3. **Rock**. Jesus became a rock of offense to the builders.

4. **Offense**. The builders took offense at Jesus because He claimed to be the Son of God and the Cornerstone laid by God in Zion.

5. **Disobedient**. The builders rejected Jesus because they were disobedient to the word of God.

6. **Word**. Living fervently in the family of God means the word of God remains true and demands obedience from everyone.

7. **Appointed**. We rejoice today because we love the Cornerstone, although the builders were appointed to destruction.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering unbelievers stumble over Jesus and consider Him a rock of offense.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God understanding that God appointed the builders and everyone who rejects Jesus to eternal destruction.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by thanking God that by His grace we love the Cornerstone.**

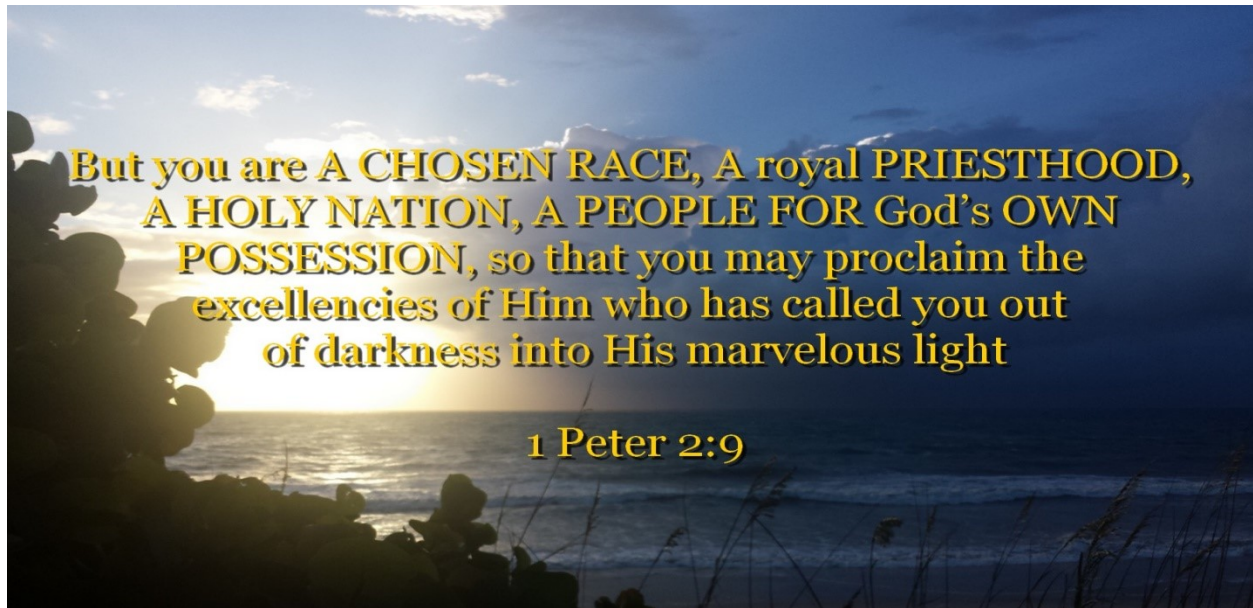
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that people stumble over the Cornerstone because they are disobedient to the word. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God for the Cornerstone laid in Zion for our salvation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Four

Priesthood Today



What does God expect every believer to proclaim? He expects them to proclaim the excellencies of Him Who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

The people who believe in Jesus for salvation will not be disappointed. In fact, God called them a chosen race and a royal priesthood and a people for His own possession. God had a purpose in calling us to Himself.

God made us a royal priesthood. Part of the duties of priests includes offering sacrifices. They also make proclamations to the people. God chose us as priests to make proclamations about Him to other people. Based upon His revelation to us of His mercies and kindness, He then commissioned us to proclaim the excellencies of His Name. We became living testaments of God and His grace.

As the chosen people of God, He commands us to live holy just as He is holy. We are God's own holy possession and His holy and royal

priesthood. Today, all believers are priests chosen by God to proclaim His excellencies because He called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Marvelous Light

1. **Chosen**. How did God describe believers? He described them as a chosen race and a royal priesthood.
2. **Race**. God described believers as a holy nation and a chosen race.
3. **Royal**. All believers are part of the royal priesthood of God
4. **Priesthood**. Because of the priesthood of all believers, we have been appointed to a special service by God.
5. **Nation**. Because we are a holy nation, believers do not live or act like the other nations.
6. **People**. Living fervently in the family of God means we are a people for God's own possession.
7. **Marvelous**. We rejoice today because God has called us out of darkness to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us into His marvelous light.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by proclaiming the excellencies of Him Who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by remembering we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's own possession.**

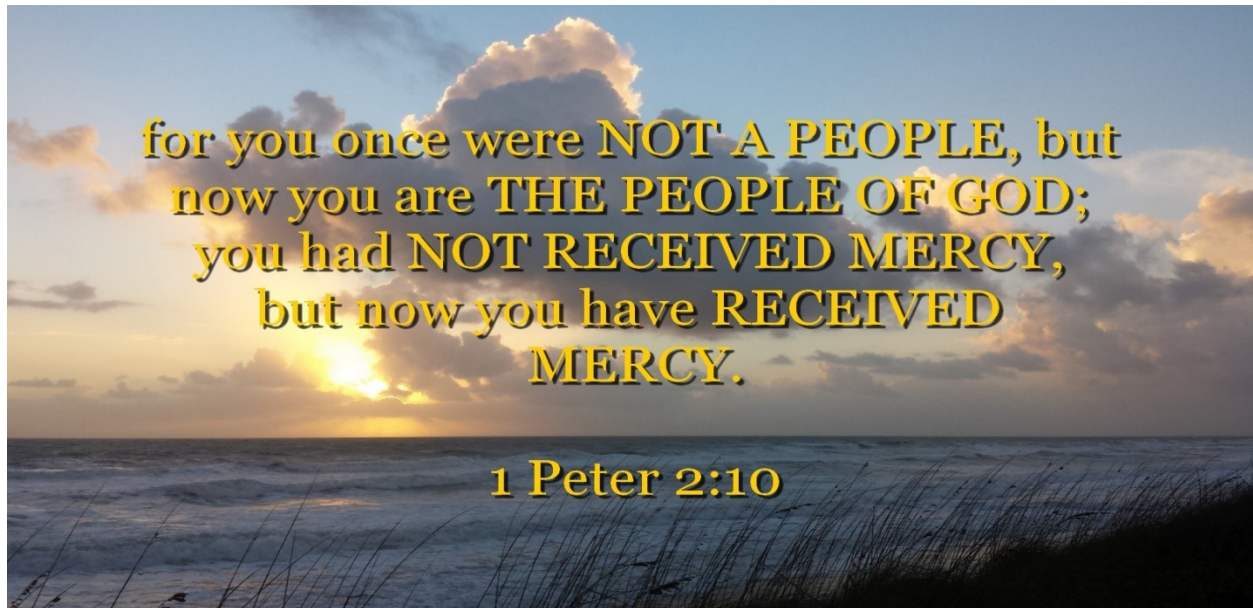
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by proclaiming the excellencies of Him Who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering you are part of a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for God's own possession so that you may proclaim Him to the other nations?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Five

People of God Today



What changed in our lives when God chose us? We became the people of God and we were not a people before then.

God exercised His mercy and grace in calling believers to Himself. We were not a people. In fact, we were strangers and aliens to the Commonwealth of Israel. But God being rich in mercy called us to Himself. We had not received mercy, but now through Christ we have received mercy.

God emphasized His action and calling us to Himself. He made us a royal priesthood, the servants by whom His excellencies are proclaimed. God called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. At the moment of faith in Christ as Savior, we became part of the royal priesthood of God.

As the people of God have been shown mercy, God expects us to proclaim his excellencies to people that are still trapped in darkness and without hope in this world. They live in the domain of darkness without the forgiveness of sins. Yet, by the mercies of God, He has commissioned His

royal priesthood to proclaim grace and truth to those people who still dwell in darkness. We have all become priests proclaiming the excellencies of God Who called us into His marvelous light.

Received Mercy

1. **You**. What did God explain to the people of God about peoples and mercy? God explained that He made believers of the people of God who had received His mercy.
2. **Once**. Before faith in Christ, they were not a people.
3. **People**. After faith in Christ, they became the people of God.
4. **God**. God created a people for Himself by giving them faith in the Cornerstone.
5. **Not**. Before faith in Christ, they had not received mercy.
6. **Received**. Living fervently in the family of God means after faith in Christ, they received mercy.
7. **Mercy**. We rejoice today because the mercies of God are new every morning, and yet are as eternal as God for our lives.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering how God made us a people by faith in the Cornerstone.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God praising God that we are the people of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by thanking God that we have received the mercy of God.**

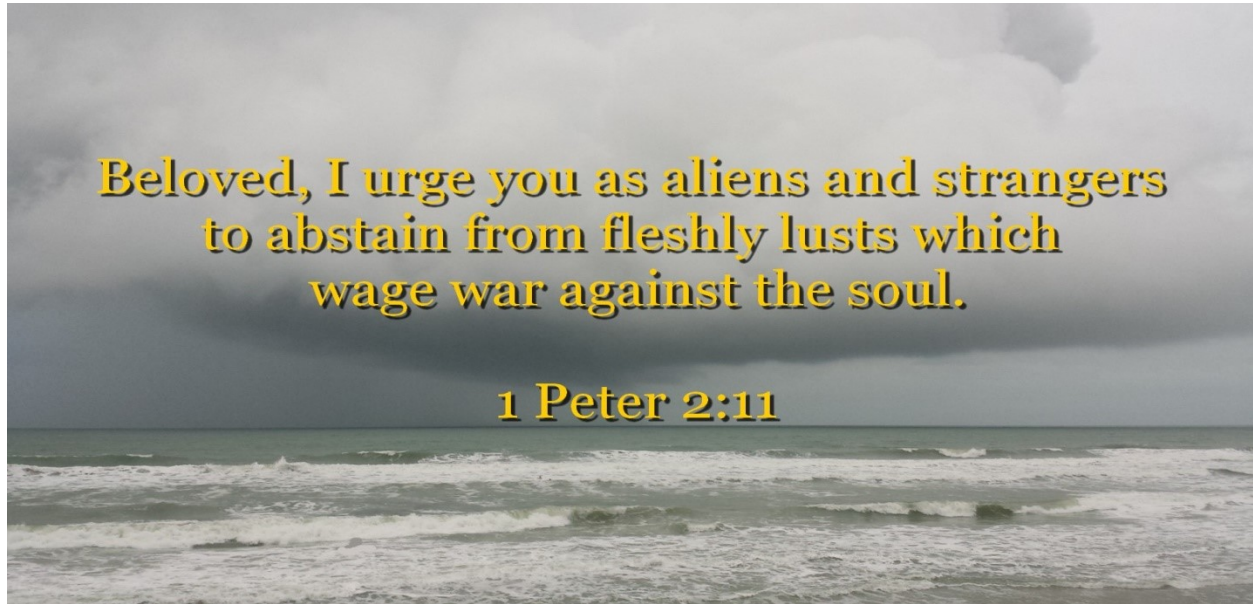
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing that we are the people of God who received the mercy of God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by thanking God for His mercy in calling us to be the people of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Six

Urge Today



How did Peter address the saints? Peter addressed the saints as aliens and strangers.

Peter wrote to a group of people scattered abroad in Asia Minor. They were living as aliens and strangers in that area. Some had been displaced by persecution and others traveled there for other reasons. Paul described them as aliens and strangers because they were citizens of heaven.

At the moment of salvation, each believer becomes a citizen of heaven. Therefore, we live on earth as aliens and strangers, knowing that the earth is no longer our home. We have died and our lives have been hidden with Christ in God. Christ sits in heaven at the right hand of God the Father.

As aliens and strangers, we must abstain from fleshly lusts. Our fleshly lusts urge us to do things we really do not want to do. Yet, our flesh exerts tremendous power to pull us into sin. Only through the infinitely

greater power of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit can we resist the power of sin attacking us. We face a spiritual battle in our souls as we wage war against the flesh and its lusts.

Abstain

1. **Beloved**. What did Peter urge the saints to do? He urged the beloved to abstain from fleshly lusts.

2. **Urge**. By urging the saints to abstain from fleshly lusts, Peter was describing spiritual warfare.

3. **Aliens**. He wrote to the saints scattered abroad living as aliens in a foreign country.

4. **Strangers**. They were also strangers to the people around them because they were the children of God.

5. **Abstain**. Peter urged them to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against their souls.

6. **Fleshly**. Living fervently in the family of God means we exercise God's power in our lives to abstain from fleshly lusts which war with our souls.

7. **War**. We rejoice today in the power of God to keep us from fulfilling our fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by abstaining from fleshly lusts.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by remembering that we live as aliens and strangers in the world.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by winning the spiritual struggle by abstaining from the lusts of the flesh by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

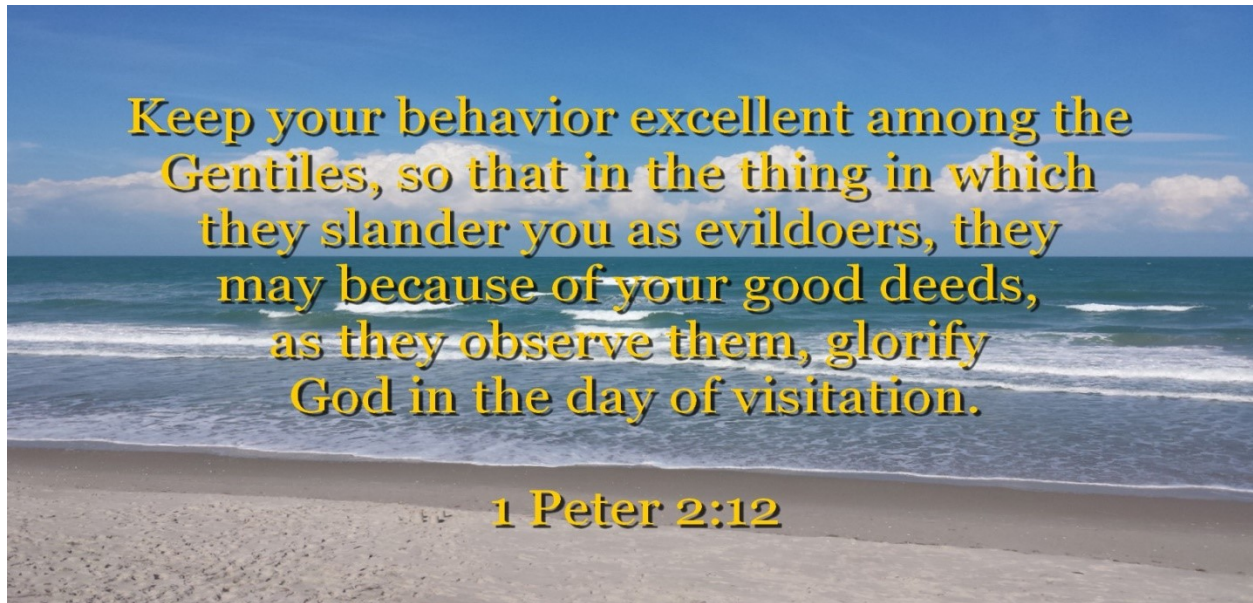
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by urging our friends to abstain from fleshly lusts as we set the example for them. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by abstaining from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Seven

Behavior Today



How can we encourage Gentiles to glorify God? We encourage Gentiles to glorify God as they observe our good behavior.

Peter commanded the aliens and strangers to keep their behavior excellent among the Gentiles. The Gentiles will slander believers as evildoers. When believers receive such slander, they overcome such slander by their good deeds. So while the Gentiles slanderously accuse us of evil deeds, our good deeds encourage them to glorify God in the day of visitation.

Peter did not describe the day of visitation in this verse, but Peter certainly indicated that day was coming when they would have to face God and give an account of their deeds. Slandering believers would not be something unbelievers would want to justify to God. Slandering His children with lies only inflames God.

Peter encouraged the believers to do their deeds where the Gentiles could observe them. At times, quietly living before God and doing the will of God and the works of God will draw attention from unbelievers. As they see us displaying the love of God to people, we will encourage them to draw near to God because their day of visitation is coming.

Glorify God

1. **Keep**. Why should we keep our behavior excellent among the Gentiles? We keep our behavior excellent so that they will glorify God in the day of visitation by observing our good deeds.

2. **Behavior**. God revealed that our behavior among the Gentiles really counts.

3. **Excellent**. We must keep our behavior excellent as a witness and testimony to them about God in our lives.

4. **Gentiles**. The Gentiles reject God and do not know Jesus Christ.

5. **Slander**. The Gentiles slander believers, especially Jewish believers, who live among them.

6. **Deeds**. Living fervently in the family of God means our good deeds displayed for the Gentiles may cause them to glorify God in the day of visitation.

7. **Glorify**. We rejoice today because we want the Gentiles and all people to glorify God in the day of visitation.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by doing good deeds today so that the people who slander us as evildoers may glorify God in the day of visitation.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God keeping our behavior excellent among the Gentiles.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to keep our behavior excellent among the Gentiles.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by keeping our behavior excellent among the Gentiles. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that our good deeds may cause others to glorify God in the day of visitation?

HALLELUJAH!

4

Submitting to Authority Today

God commanded saints to submit to every human institution, established by God for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. Saints should never use their freedom as a covering for evil.

Servants must be submissive to their own masters, even to the unreasonable ones. Saints find favor with God, if they bear up under sorrows while suffering unjustly. Saints have been called to follow the example of Christ and His suffering. He did not revile when He was reviled and while suffering, He uttered no threats. Jesus kept entrusting Himself to the One Who judges righteously. Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds, we were healed. Now we have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.

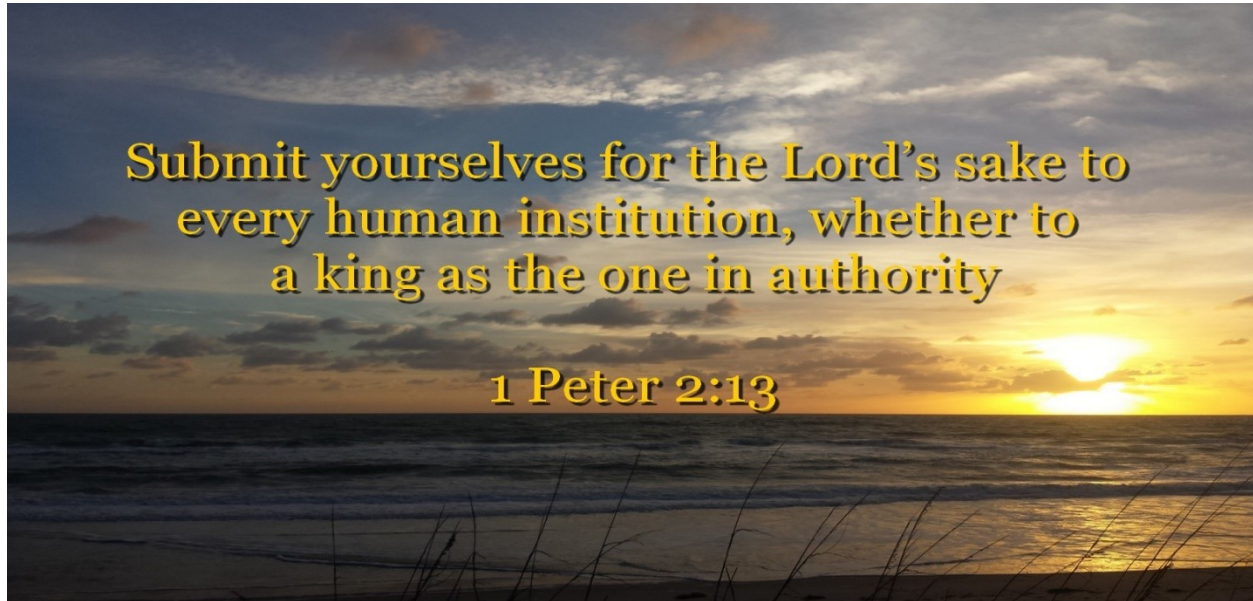
Likewise, wives must be submissive to their own husbands. Wives should be careful to win their husbands who are disobedient to the word without a word, by their chaste and respectful behavior. Wives should remember that Sarah called Abraham lord. Husbands, likewise, must live with their wives in an understanding way, as someone weaker. Husbands must show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so their prayers will not be hindered.

Peter summed up that all believers should be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit. They should not return evil for evil, but give a blessing instead.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirty Eight

Submit Today



Why should we submit ourselves to government? We submit ourselves to government for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some people may argue that the government put the Lord Jesus Christ to death. So, why should we submit to an institution that murdered Jesus? We submit to the government for the same reason that Jesus submitted to the government. God appointed the government to fulfill a precise role in society.

Peter indicated that we should submit ourselves to every human institution. He meant that we are not to pick and choose which ones we submit to. God wants us to submit to all properly constituted legal authority. God created the government to help society.

At times governments veer away from God's purposes. When they actually oppose God and persecute His children, then God will oppose them. Jesus limited our submission to all human institutions with the

phrase “for the Lord’s sake.” We submit to the government, so long as it does not cause us to disobey God. You may recall Old Testament men refusing to submit to the King and knowing they would incur the death penalty. Some of those men were rescued from death by God.

Authority

1. **Submit**. How should we live under the government? We should submit ourselves to every human institution.

2. **Yourselves**. God commanded us to submit ourselves to human institutions for the Lord’s sake.

3. **Human**. Although some human governments can do evil things, we must still submit to them so long as they do not require us to break God’s commandments.

4. **Institution**. Human institutions include all kinds of government bodies.

5. **Whether**. We submit to human institutions, whether they are kings or others in authority.

6. **Kings**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we submit to human institutions, according to the will of God.

7. **Authority**. We rejoice today because we submit to human institutions so that we may glorify God with our good works.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by submitting to human institutions, according to the will of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by not resisting the authority of human institutions, provided they are not countermanding the commandments of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by submitting ourselves for the Lord's sake to human institutions.**

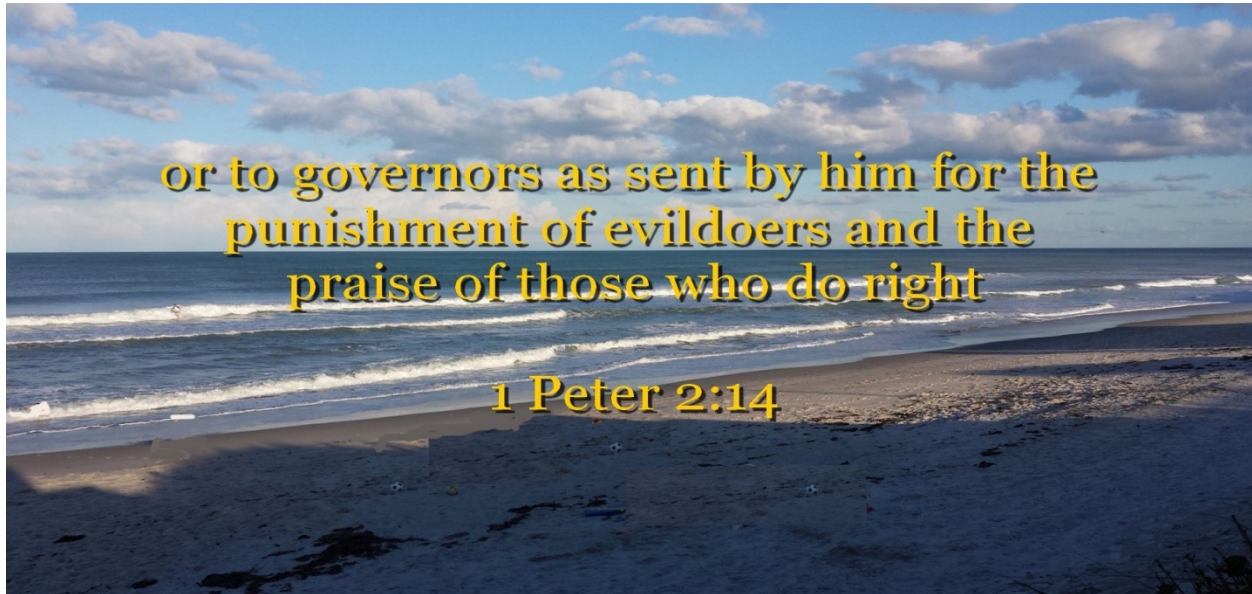
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by submitting to human institutions for the Lord's sake. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by rejoicing in the power of God to help us submit to human institutions so that we may do good deeds before all people?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Thirty Nine

Governors Today



What plan did God have for government? God planned for government to perform two distinct functions.

First, God intended for governors to punish evildoers. Instead of people taking individual vengeance, God intended for the government to be impartial in delivering judgment to those who break the law. Please recall that God never cedes His authority to anyone else. He appoints people to serve in government with the duty to follow His law.

Second, God intended for governors to praise people who do the right thing. Just as government should punish evil, so they should reward good. Government should always have a place for righteous people to serve so that they may follow God's plans. God established government and supports government. People need government to help them live productive lives in freedom.

At times government actually operates as an instrument of the devil. Many large and small wars have been fought by governments controlled by the devil.

Praise

1. **Governors**. What do governors do? God intended for governors to punish evildoers and praise those who do right.
2. **Sent**. God sent governors for the punishment of evildoers.
3. **Him**. The governors were sent by Him for the specific purpose of doing His will on earth.
4. **Punishment**. People in authority have been put there by God for the punishment of evildoers.
5. **Praise**. Likewise, the government is to praise those who do good deeds.
6. **Do**. Living fervently in the family of God means God appointed governments for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
7. **Right**. We rejoice today because God values doing right and seeks to promote that behavior among all people.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by submitting to governors and others in authority because God sent them.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by understanding the government was created for the purpose of punishing the evildoers and praising those who do right.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging other believers to submit to government for the Lord's sake.**

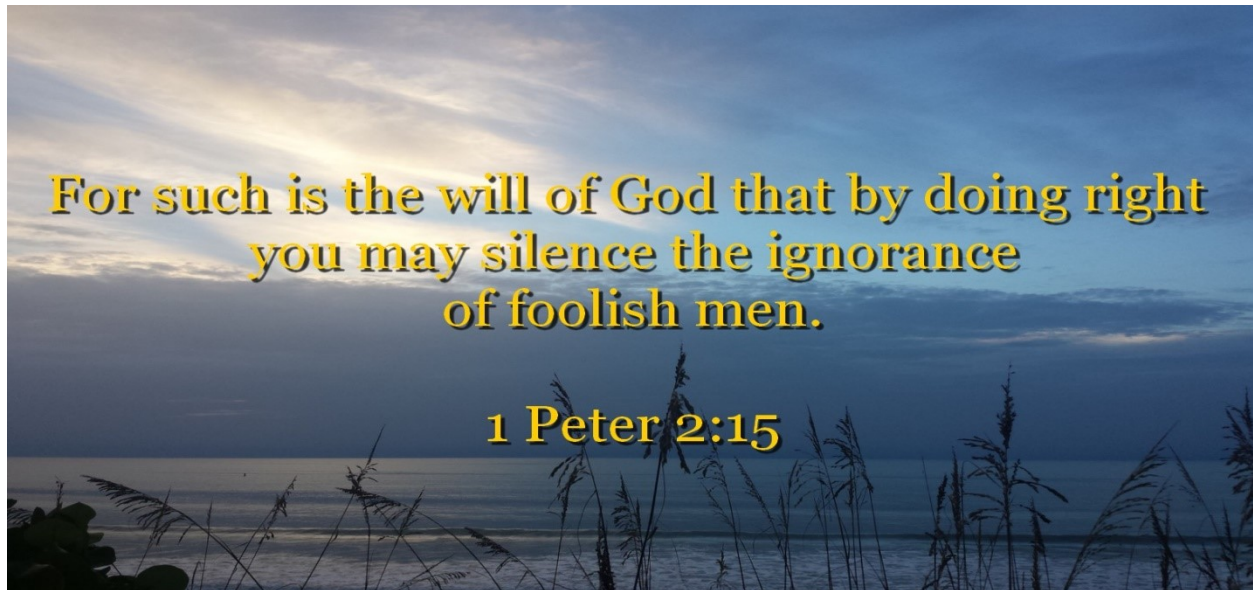
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by understanding that the government should punish the evildoers and praise those who do right. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by urging other believers to submit to the government for the sake of the Lord?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty

Ignorance Today



What effect does doing right have? Doing right may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

God intended for government to punish those who do evil and reward those people who do good. In some cases, however, foolish men in their ignorance raise their voices and some people listen to them. They do not spread knowledge, but ignorance. Professing to be wise, they show themselves to be foolish men.

Peter understands everyday life. He showed us how to deal with the government and how to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Peter wants us to know how to deal with the ignorance of foolish men in a nonviolent way. We do not have to strike out at them. We may silence them by our good behavior. When we act in a winsome way before unbelievers, doing the will of God, people tend to notice.

Sometimes actions speak louder than words. So, when our actions speak of the grace of God at work in our lives, God can use our lives to

silence the ignorance of foolish men. God has many ways of dealing with ignorance and foolish men.

Foolish Men

1. **Will**. How do we silence the ignorance of foolish men? By doing the right thing in the eyes of God.

2. **God**. We can know the will of God concerning how we act towards foolish men.

3. **Doing**. Doing the right thing in the eyes of God silences the foolishness of ignorant men.

4. **Right**. Doing the right thing in the eyes of God includes submitting to government for the sake of the Lord.

5. **Silence**. When foolish men speak from their ignorance, they often slander saints.

6. **Ignorance**. Living fervently in the family of God means we do not have to live under the ignorance of foolish men, but we may silence them with our good deeds.

7. **Foolish**. We rejoice today when we silence the ignorance of foolish men as we do the things that are pleasing in God's sight for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing and doing the will of God so that we may silence the ignorance of foolish men.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God trusting God to help us to His will so that we never bring shame upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to do the right thing so that we may silence the ignorance of foolish men.**

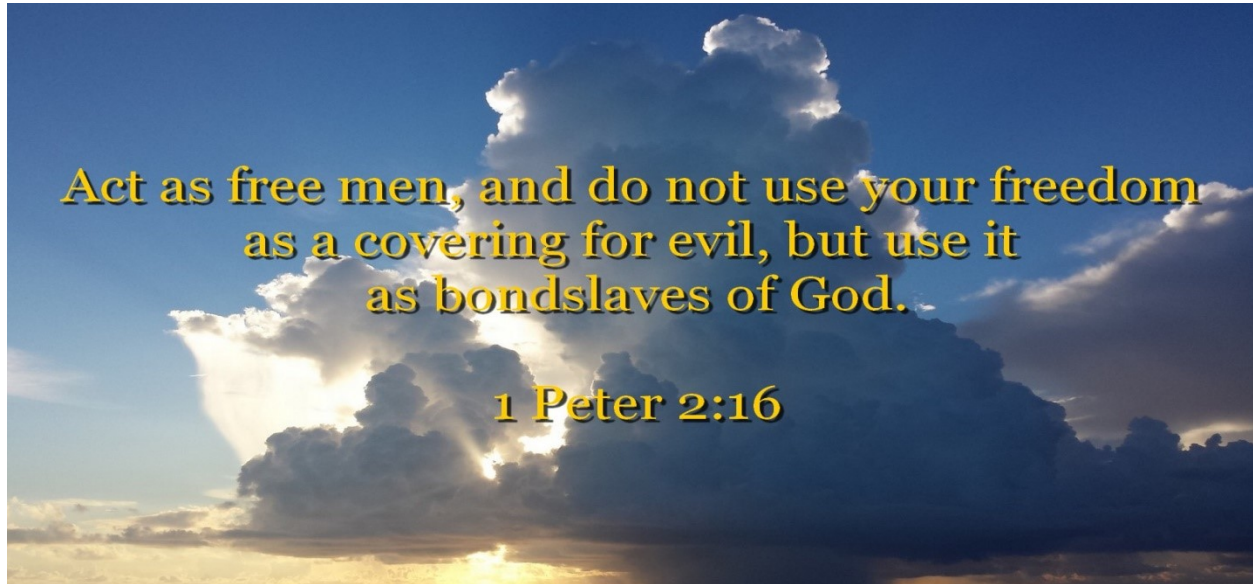
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by submitting to human government for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ so that by doing right, we may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by doing the right thing for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty One

Freedom Today



How should saints act? They should act as freemen.

Although the saints should act as freemen, they should not use their freedom as a covering for evil. Some people may think that liberty in the Lord means they can do whatever they want to please themselves. Peter opposed such thinking and called us to live as slaves of God.

God bought us with the precious blood of His Son. He made us a kingdom of priests to serve Him every day. God intends for us to live our lives to please Him and serve Him every day.

Peter explained how we interact with the government. We should treat the government as if God ordained it. God intends for the government to punish evildoers and praise those who do well. God cares about our everyday lives and wants us to live them before the world to reflect His glory.

Living as slaves of God keeps us focused upon doing His will. We try to live in harmony with the government and with all men. How we act each

day reflects our Master. We do not live in rebellion against the government, but submit ourselves to the government for the sake of the Lord.

Bondslaves

1. **Free**. All saints remain slaves of God, but live in freedom from slavery to sin and death.

2. **Use**. As slaves of God, servants must not use their freedom in God sinfully.

3. **Freedom**. While all slaves of God have freedom from slavery to sin, they must not sin against their masters.

4. **Covering**. Servants must never use their freedom with God as a covering for sin against their masters.

5. **Evil**. Servants of God should never do evil to anyone, especially their human masters.

6. **Slaves**. Living fervently in the family of God means that slaves use their freedom in God to serve their human masters.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because Jesus gives every servant the power of God to serve his master with a good conscience towards God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing that God love servants and helps them serve their masters with a clean conscience.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that servants should never use their freedom in God as a covering for evil towards their masters.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God, our Master, Who never acts unjustly.**

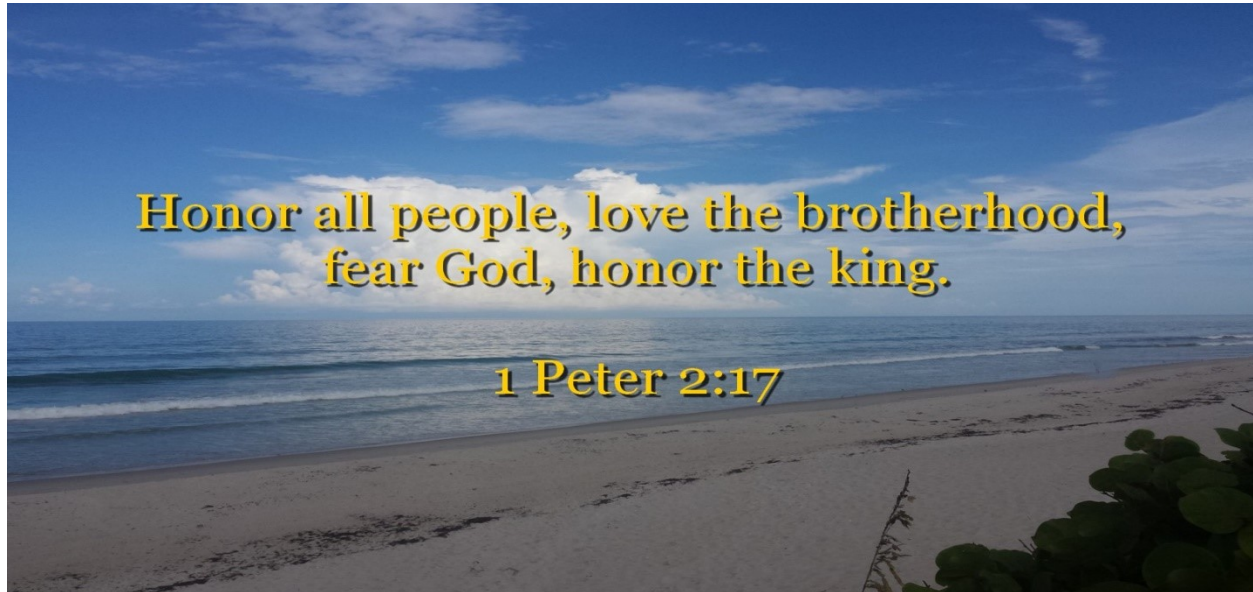
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by encouraging slaves to never use their freedom in God as a covering for evil towards their masters. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by serving your master without sin today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Two

Honor Today



What general commands does God provide for us to live by regarding society? God commands us to honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king.

God intends for us to honor all people. As we treat everybody impartially, we will be more like God Who also treats everyone impartially. God welcomes people from all lands and races into the kingdom of God. He only provided one Savior for all of us.

God intends for us to love the brotherhood. God called all the saints into one body with one baptism and one faith. We all have the same Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. As the one Shepherd of our souls, we follow the Lord Jesus Christ because we know His voice and we know Him.

We never lose our fear of God. While some people reduce the fear of God to do something like reverential awe, God used the most common term for fear in the New Testament. We should never lose our fear of God, although that fear lives right next to our love for God.

God also commanded us to honor the king. We submit to government and honor the king. Therefore, we should not disrespect the king.

Fear

1. **Honor**. What should we do with all people? We should honor all people.
2. **All**. When God said honor all people, He meant even the ones who act unjustly.
3. **People**. When God used the word people, He included unbelievers.
4. **Love**. God commands us to love the brotherhood.
5. **Brotherhood**. The brotherhood here includes people that we have a brotherly affection for.
6. **Fear**. Living fervently in the family of God means we fear God, which means more than reverential awe.
7. **King**. We rejoice today because God commands us to honor the king.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by honoring all people, loving the brotherhood, fearing God and honoring the king.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that God wants us to treat everyone as if we love them and respect them.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to follow God's commandments regarding how to love other people and bring honor to His Name.**

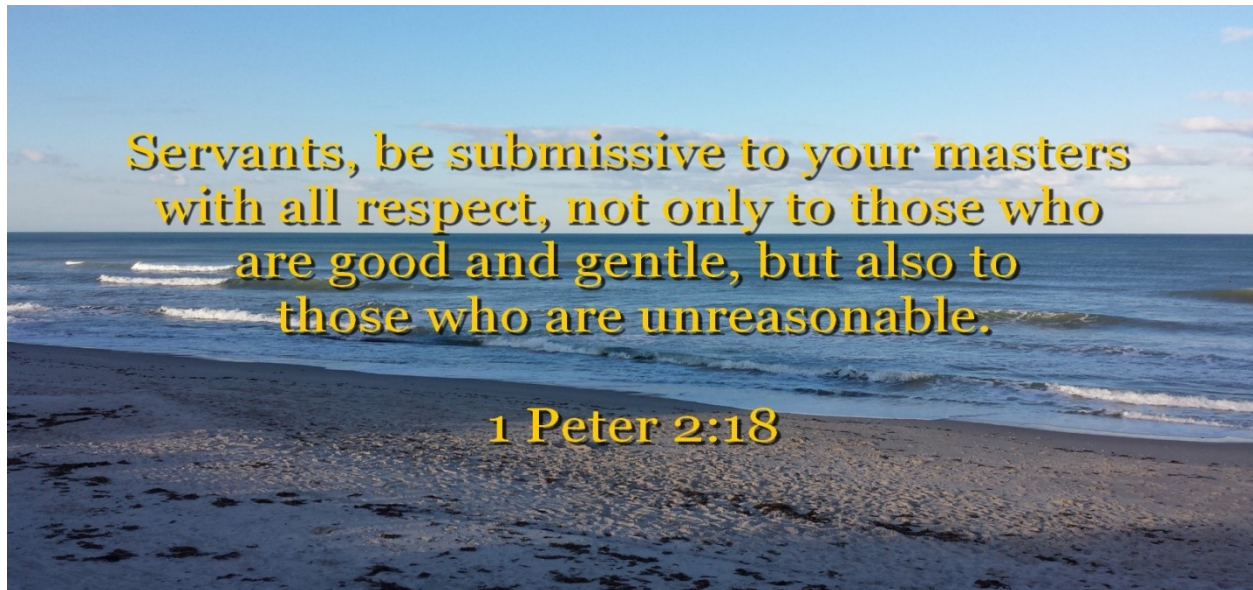
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by honoring all people, loving the brotherhood, fearing God, and honoring the king. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by treating people with honor and respect because you love God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Three

Submissive Today



How should house servants interact with unreasonable masters? God commanded house servants to submit to unreasonable masters.

God commanded house servants to be submissive to their masters. The house servant should show their masters all respect. While showing respect may be easy for masters who are good and gentle, what does the house servant do when his master treats him unreasonably?

God commands house servants to be submissive to their masters even when they are unreasonable. Although that may seem hard to comprehend, God intends for us to maintain an extraordinary testimony to masters. While other house servants may be rebelling against unreasonable treatment, the holy house servant submits to an unreasonable master for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. The testimony to the world shines all the brighter as the house servant submits to the unreasonable master.

God expects us to recognize Him as Supreme Master. He gives us orders and we follow them without questioning. Therefore, when He tells

house servants to submit even to unreasonable masters, we know that the house servants ultimately submit to God.

Unreasonable

1. **Servants**. What does God want from house servants? God commands them to submit to their masters.

2. **Submissive**. Submission means that they do their master's will, not their own.

3. **Respect**. Servants must submit with respect, not disdain.

4. **Good**. Masters should be good to their servants, making it far easier for servants to submit to them.

5. **Gentle**. Masters should also be gentle with their servants.

6. **Also**. Living fervently in the family of God means servants should always be submissive to their masters for the sake of the Lord.

7. **Unreasonable**. We rejoice today God commanded servants to be submissive to their own masters, even when they are unreasonable.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by being servants submitting to their masters.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by masters being good and gentle to their servants.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by servants submitting to their masters even when they are not gentle or reasonable.**

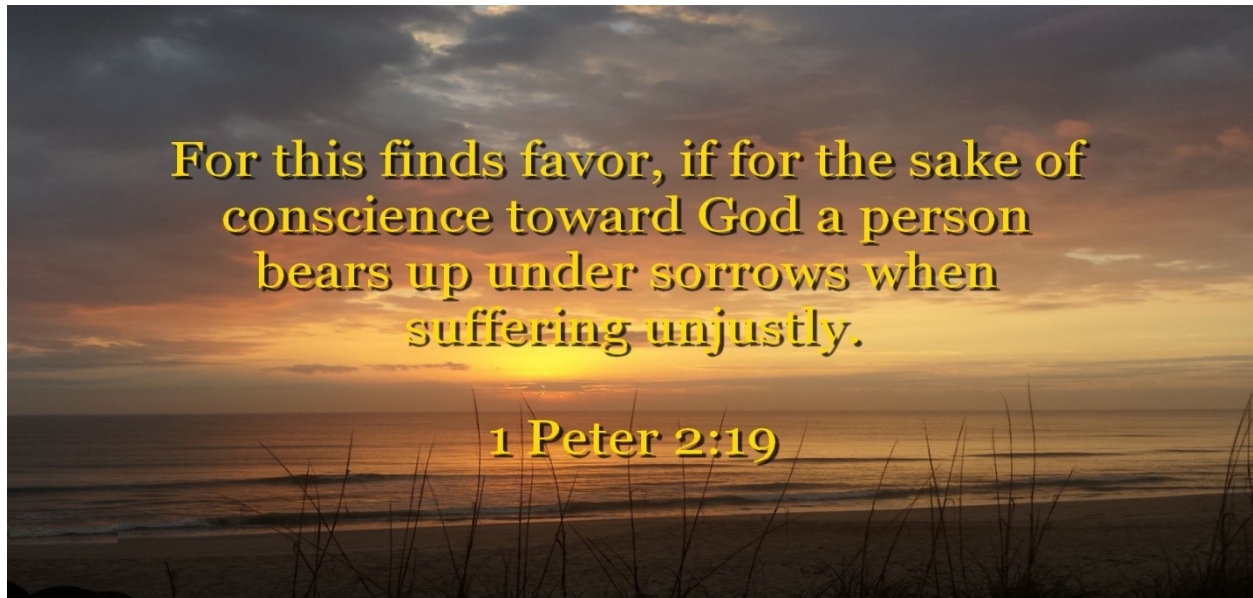
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by encouraging servants to submit to their masters, even when they are unreasonable. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by submitting to your master for the sake of the Lord, even when they are unreasonable?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Four

Favor Today



How can servants glorify God? They glorify God when they bear up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

God understands the life of servants. He knows about unreasonable masters. He comprehends the sorrows that evil men inflict upon their servants. Nothing escapes His notice and He loves His children.

House servants can find favor with God. In fact, pleasing God supersedes all earthly responsibilities. God talked about our conscience compelling us to honor God first. Because our conscience will hurt when we disobey God, we keep God's will in our hearts.

House servants endure bad treatment by their masters for the sake of conscience toward God. Because we want to please God above all else, we do what He said. He told house servants to be submissive to unreasonable masters. God wants them all to know that when they put Him first, they find eternal favor with God. So, God knows and cares about how servants interact with their masters. He rewards the servants who follow His will, even when circumstances are tough with their masters.

Suffering

1. **Favor**. What finds favor with God? Servants find favor for with God when they submit to their masters for the sake of the Lord.
2. **Sake**. Servants must learn to obey their conscience before God.
3. **Conscience**. Their conscience must be attuned to the will of God.
4. **God**. God commanded servants to be submissive to their masters, even unreasonable ones.
5. **Bears**. Servants must bear up under all conditions.
6. **Sorrows**. Living fervently in the family of God means servants bear up under sorrows and suffering.
7. **Unjustly**. We rejoice today because God commands servants to bear up for the sake of conscience even when they suffer unjustly.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by submitting to the masters for the sake of conscience toward God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by servants submitting to masters even when suffering unjustly.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by reminding suffering servants to submit to their masters.**

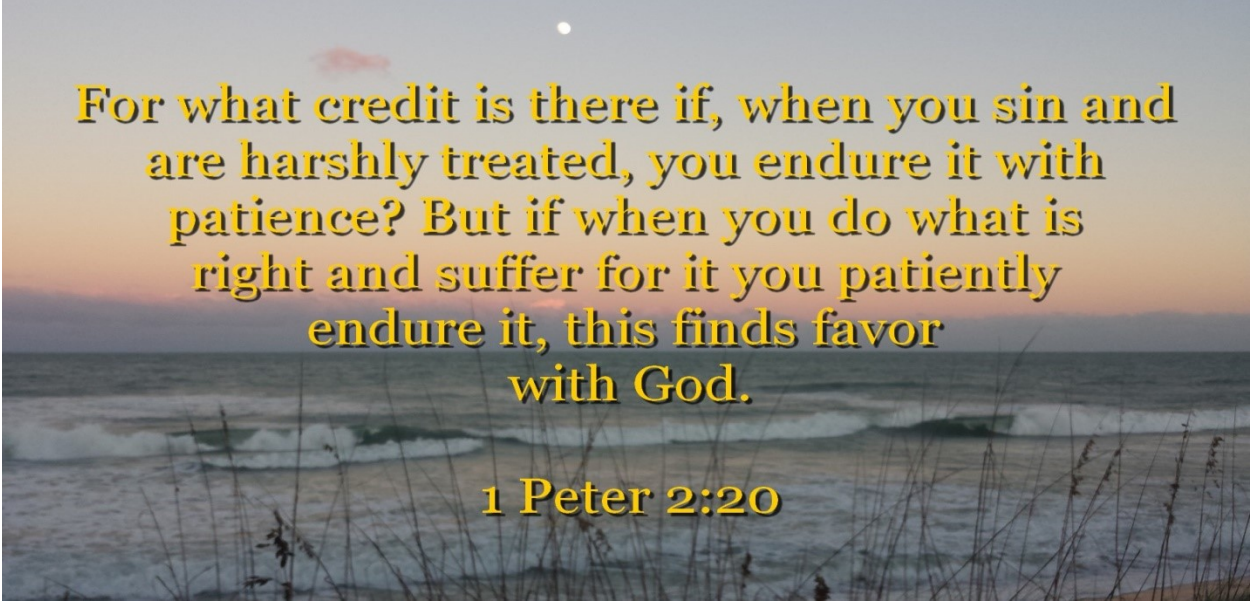
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by encouraging servants to submit to their masters even when they suffer unjustly. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by encouraging servants to submit their conscience to God and do His will towards their masters?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Five

Endure Today



For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

1 Peter 2:20

Does God care if we suffer unjustly? God absolutely cares.

Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter contrasted (1) the punishment of servants who act badly; and (2) the punishment of servants who suffer for doing the right thing.

If servants act badly and are harshly treated, then they do not find favor with God, because they acted badly. In other words, servants should not use God's will as a cover to do evil towards anyone, especially their masters.

In contrast, servants who do the right thing towards their masters may suffer for doing the right thing. Their masters may treat them unjustly and they may receive harsh treatment for doing the right thing. God said when the servants do the right thing and receive harsh treatment, they find favor with God.

Therefore, we know that God understands and cares that His servants may be treated unjustly and harshly. God does not hold out a paradise here on earth with their masters. On the contrary, God fully comprehends that faithful servants to God may receive very bad treatment from human masters on earth. God wants all His servants to know that He rewards faithful service.

Patiently

1. **Credit**. How do servants find favor with God? By doing what is right and patiently enduring suffering.
2. **Sin**. When servants sin, they dishonor God.
3. **Harshly**. When servants sin and their masters treat them harshly, servants may endure such suffering with patience.
4. **Patience**. As servants suffer with patience, they may still glorify God.
5. **Right**. When servants suffer for doing the right thing, they may still glorify God.
6. **Suffer**. Living fervently in the family of God means that when servants suffer for doing the right thing, and endure such suffering with patience, they find favor with God.
7. **Favor**. We rejoice today because God favors servants who suffer unjustly and patiently endure it for the sake of the Lord.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by enduring all suffering with patience.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God enjoying God's favor as we suffer unjustly for doing the right thing.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging others to endure with patience suffering for doing the right thing because they will find favor with God.**

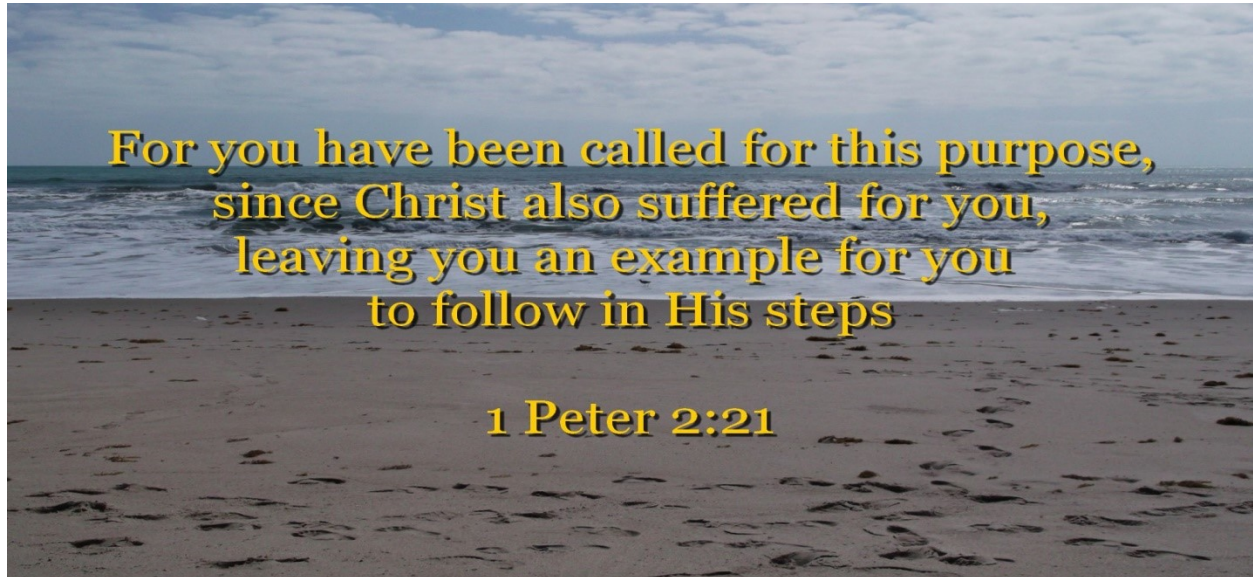
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by enduring with patience unjust suffering because we seek the favor of God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that God sees and rewards every servant who suffers unjustly and honors Him by enduring it for the sake of the Lord?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Six

Called Today



For what purpose have we been called? We have been called to follow in the steps of Jesus.

Following in the steps of Jesus includes following in His sufferings. We understand that the government, at times, inflicts punishment upon saints, just like it crucified Jesus without cause. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we continue His ministry on earth and face the consequences.

Christ suffered for all of us. Therefore, it only stands to reason that we should suffer for Him. His sufferings provided an atonement for sin; our sufferings can never atone for our sins. We suffer as we follow His example, but we should not confuse the purpose of our suffering. Our suffering adds nothing to the atonement Jesus provided through His death, because Jesus completed the work of atonement at the cross.

We suffer because evil forces are at work in the world and they oppose the work of Jesus Christ. God allows both the wheat and the tares to grow together in the field until the time of harvest. The tares do their best to

choke out the wheat. Even so, our faith provides the victory over the world. We find strength today to face suffering because we know we are following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Follow

1. **Called**. Why did God call us? He called us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
2. **Purpose**. God purposed that we would walk with Jesus.
3. **Christ**. Jesus suffered for us because we sinned.
4. **Suffered**. When Christ suffered, He did so intentionally.
5. **Example**. Jesus left us an example for us to follow Him.
6. **Follow**. Living fervently in the family of God means Jesus set the perfect example for our suffering and living.
7. **Steps**. We rejoice today because we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, which include suffering for the sake of the Lord Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by following the example of Jesus.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by remembering that Jesus suffered for us as part of His example.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging other believers to follow the example of Jesus, including His sufferings.**

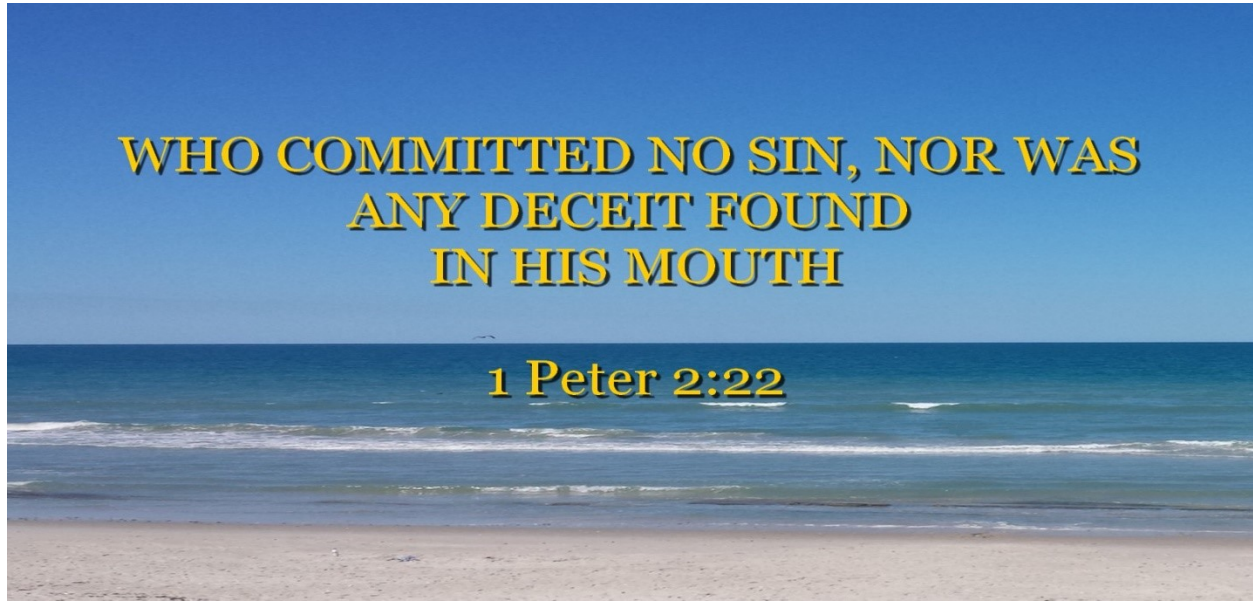
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for the example of Jesus. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by following the example of Jesus in all things, including His sufferings?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Seven

No Sin Today



Why could Jesus die for sinners? As God in the flesh, Jesus was sinless and, therefore, could offer a sinless, perfect sacrifice for sin, which He did.

Jesus knew no sin, but became sin for us. He loved us and gave His life as an atonement for sin. If Jesus had sinned even once, then He could no longer be the Sin Bearer because He would have been a sinner Himself. Jesus never sinned, but loved every sinner. He laid down His life as an atonement for the sins of the world. The Just died for the unjust, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Isaiah prophesied that no deceit would be found in the mouth of Messiah. You may recall Jesus referring to Nathanael as a man without guile. Nathanael tried to deceive no one, but spoke his mind about Jesus, asking if any good thing could come out of Nazareth. Of course, Nathanael did not understand that Jesus heard every word of that statement. Jesus never tried to deceive anybody about anything. He always spoke the truth and never lied to anyone. In contrast, the devil is the father of liars and has

no truth in him. Therefore, believers should follow in the footsteps of Jesus and avoid all deceit. We should be known as people who tell the truth all the time.

Mouth

1. **Who**. Did Jesus sin? Jesus never sinned.
2. **Sin**. Sin means to fall short of the glory of God.
3. **Any**. Jesus never deceived anyone.
4. **Deceit**. No deceit was found in Jesus.
5. **Found**. Found implies someone was searching and looking.
6. **His**. Living fervently in the family of God means no one found that Jesus ever deceived anybody about anything.
7. **Mouth**. We rejoice today because Jesus never said anything He regretted later and never said anything which fell short of the glory of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that Jesus never deceived anyone about anything.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by following the example of Jesus that no deceit was found in His mouth.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by loving Jesus more because He never sinned and never deceived anyone.**

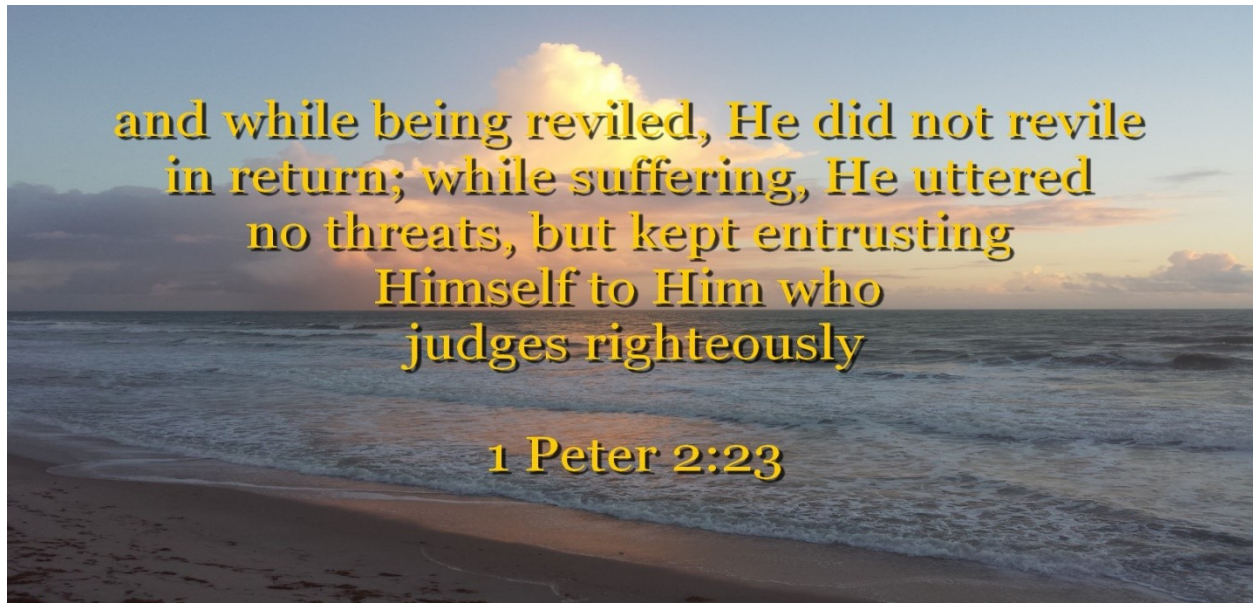
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering our spotless Savior, Who never sinned and never deceived anyone. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God for our perfect Savior, Jesus Christ the Righteous?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Eight

Reviled Today



How do we respond to people reviling us? We do not revile in return.

Reville means to criticize harshly, often with anger. As we follow the example of Jesus, we learn not to revile others, even when they revile us. We never let people control our behavior. We follow the example of Jesus and let Him control our behavior.

Many people also threatened Jesus in many ways. They tried to kill Him at different times and in different places, but they never succeeded until He determined He would lay His soul down on His own initiative. No one took His life from Him. Jesus did not threaten in return for the threats thrown against Him. Jesus could have called down many legions of angels sufficient to destroy every living thing on earth, but He did not even threaten such action.

Instead of responding in kind to threats and revilers, Jesus entrusted Himself to Him Who judges righteously. Jesus believed God the Father

would take care of Him and the Holy Spirit would help Him make a sacrifice on the cross.

No Threats

1. **Reviled**. When people criticize you harshly, how do you respond? You need to respond just like Jesus responded and follow in His footsteps.
2. **Not**. Jesus did not revile others when they reviled Him.
3. **Return**. Jesus did not return reviling words for reviling words.
4. **Suffering**. How do we respond to people who make us suffer? We utter no threats.
5. **Threats**. When Jesus suffered, He uttered no threats. Jesus had the infinite power to carry out all threats against anyone making Him suffer.
6. **Entrusting**. Living fervently in the family of God means that Jesus kept entrusting Himself to God Who judges righteously.
7. **Righteously**. We rejoice today because God always judges righteously and so we can entrust ourselves to Him always.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by not reviling others when they revile us.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by uttering no threats when people make us suffer.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by entrusting ourselves to God Who judges righteously.**

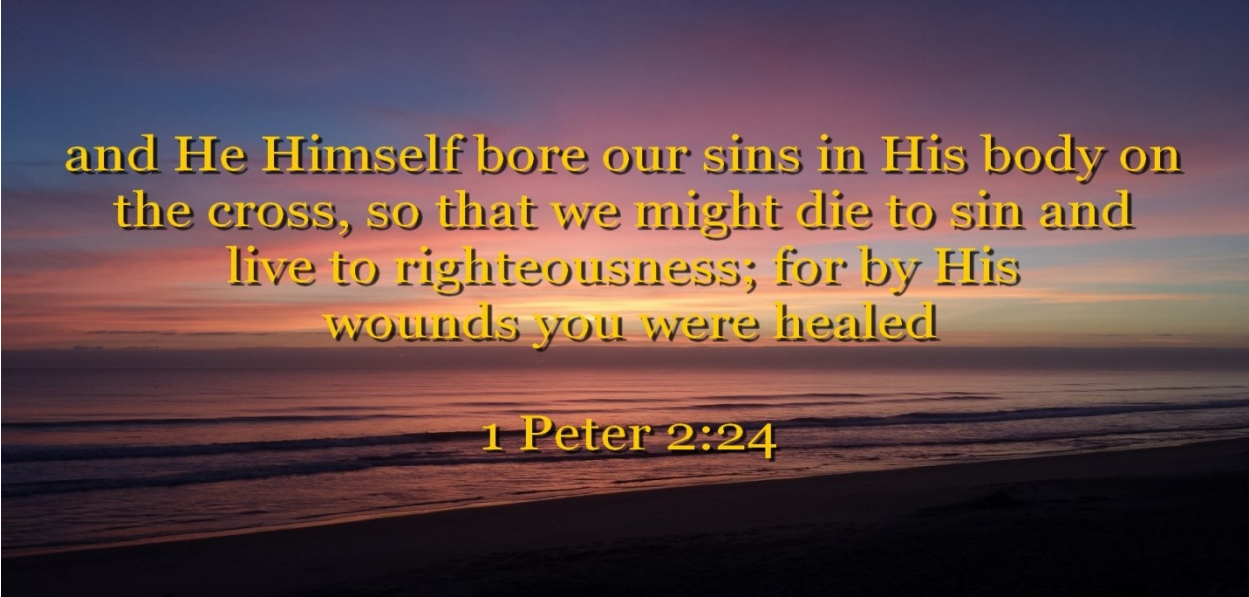
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by not returning reviling words for reviling words and uttering no threats when people make us suffer. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by entrusting yourself to God Who judges righteously?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Forty Nine

Bore our Sins Today



and He Himself bore our sins in His body on
the cross, so that we might die to sin and
live to righteousness; for by His
wounds you were healed

1 Peter 2:24

Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross so that we would die to sin and live to righteousness.

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross accomplished what nothing else could. He helped us overcome slavery to sin so that we died to sin once and for all at the moment of salvation in Christ by faith alone. Without Christ, we lived in the domain of darkness as sons of disobedience, following the devil.

At the moment of salvation, we understood that Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross. Christ died for us, an essential part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus bore our sins in His body. The blood atonement necessary for the remission of sins required a perfect, spotless bodily sacrifice to be made by Jesus as God in the flesh, pouring forth the precious blood of the Lamb of God. At the moment of salvation, we died to sin and now live to righteousness. God declared us righteous at the moment we received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior by faith alone. God imputed the

righteousness of Jesus Christ to our account and so we live before Him for all eternity. In other words, Jesus brought all His righteousness into our life. By the wounds of Jesus Christ we were healed once and for all. Jesus provided a complete, spiritual healing.

Healed

1. **He**. What did Jesus do with our sins? He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross.
2. **Bore**. Jesus bore our sins in the body God created for Him.
3. **Sins**. Jesus willingly took our sins and bore them in His spotless and perfect body.
4. **Body**. God prepared a perfect, spotless body for Jesus.
5. **Cross**. Evil men attacked the perfect spotless body of Jesus and then nailed it to the cross, while Jesus did not revile or threaten anyone.
6. **Die**. Living fervently in the family of God means that Jesus determined to die on the cross so that we may die to sin by faith in Him.
7. **Live**. We rejoice today because Jesus died on the cross so that we might live to righteousness and be healed by His wounds.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God thanking God that Jesus bore our sins that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God that we live in righteousness through Jesus Christ.**

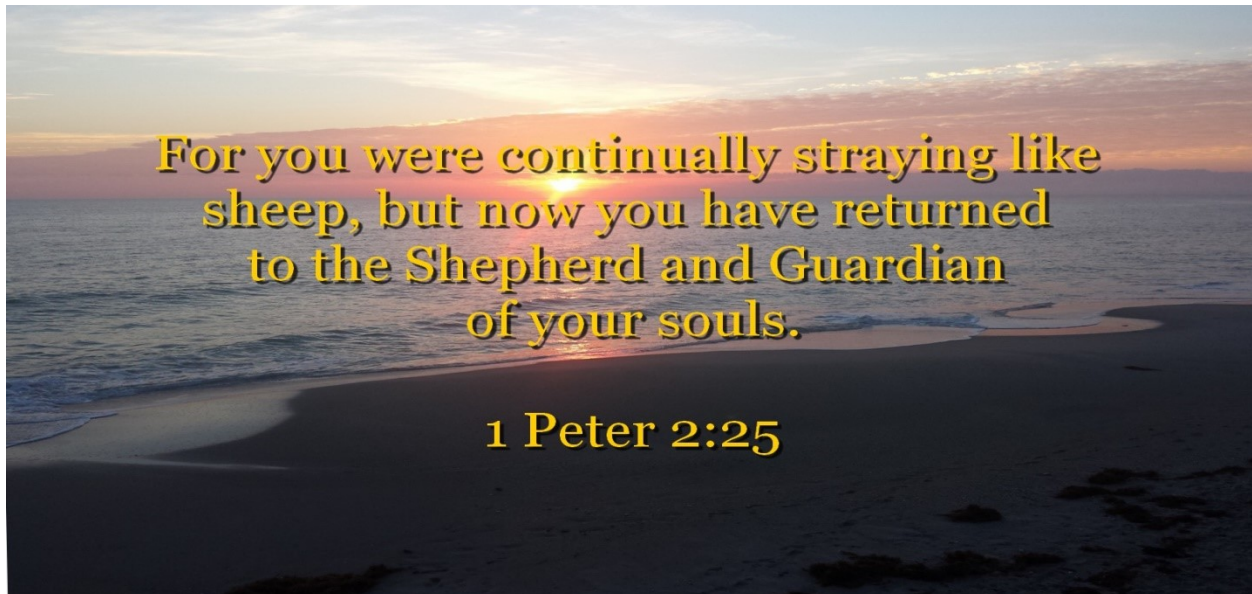
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus bore our sins in His body that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God that we may live in righteousness today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty

Straying Today



Who is the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls? Jesus is the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.

When people threaten us and revile us, we must entrust our souls to God who judges righteously. We know that judgment comes upon all those who reject Jesus as Savior. At the right time and the right place, God will bring justice to all the people who refuse to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

Peter explained that at the moment of salvation, we were continually straying like sheep. By faith in Christ for salvation, we have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls. Jesus described two separate functions.

First, Jesus described Himself as the Shepherd of our souls. As the Good Shepherd of the sheep, Jesus distinguished Himself by laying down His life for the sheep and not withdrawing when the wolf came to prey upon the sheep.

Second, Jesus is the Guardian of our souls. As Jesus prayed on the night of His arrest, Jesus focused upon the keeping power of God. Jesus keeps His disciples and God the Father keeps the disciples. They each laid their hands upon the disciples and covered them, providing infinite safety for them.

Returned

1. **Straying**. What are the saints like? Saints are like sheep that are continually straying away from Jesus.
2. **Sheep**. Jesus described His followers as sheep.
3. **Returned**. At the moment of salvation, sheep return to the Shepherd.
4. **Shepherd**. Jesus is always the Good Shepherd of the sheep.
5. **Guardian**. Jesus is always the Guardian of the sheep.
6. **Your**. Living fervently in the family of God means the sheep were continually straying, but now they are returned to the Guardian and Shepherd of their souls.
7. **Souls**. We rejoice today because Jesus will always be the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls that receives us back to Himself.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that we were continually straying like sheep.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by worshiping Jesus, the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging people to return to the Shepherd and Guardian of their souls.**

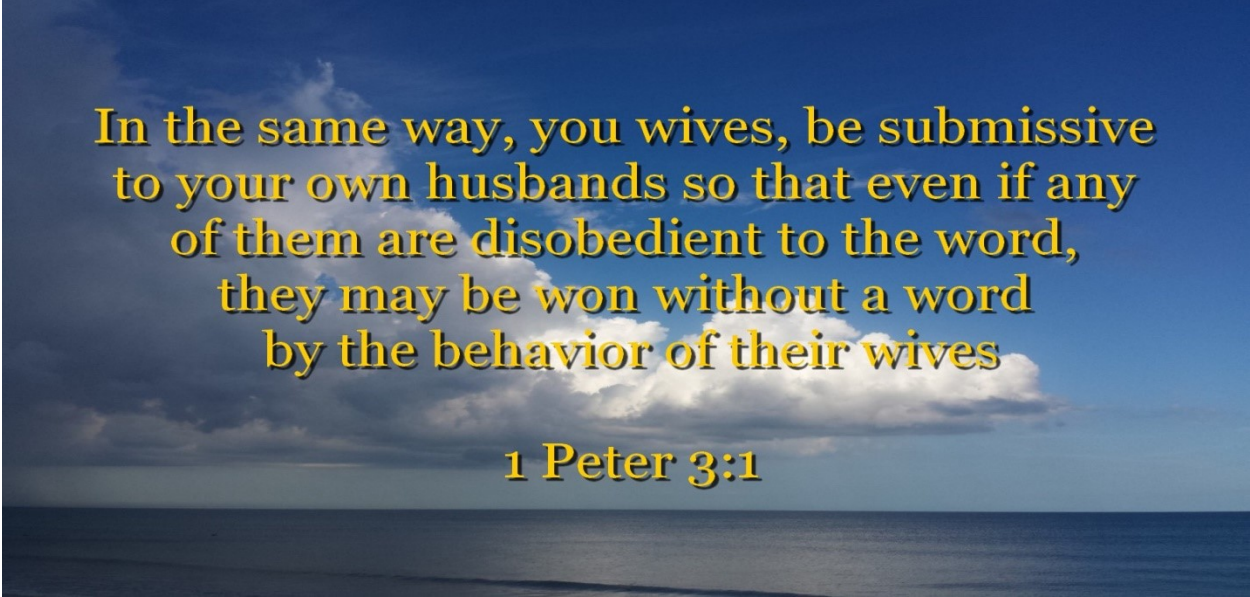
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that Jesus will always be the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by inviting sheep to return to the Shepherd and Guardian of their souls?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty One

Wives Today



In the same way, you wives, be submissive
to your own husbands so that even if any
of them are disobedient to the word,
they may be won without a word
by the behavior of their wives

1 Peter 3:1

How do wives help disobedient husbands? Wives help disobedient husbands by not nagging them.

Wives should follow the example of Jesus. He was always submissive to God the Father. Being submissive means that we put our will under the will of another. We do what the other person wants us to do. As followers of Jesus, we strive to do what Jesus wants us to do.

At times husbands can be disobedient to the word. Notice that disobedient to the word is not the same as disobedient to the wife. Many wives think that the husband should do what they say when they say it. The Bible indicates that wives should be submissive to their husbands.

Problems arise with submission when the husband is disobedient to the word. God instructed wives that they may win their husbands who are disobedient to the word of God. They avoid nagging their husbands. Instead, they win their husbands without a word by focusing upon their

behavior. As they walk with Jesus Christ and focus upon Him, their behavior will speak for itself without a word and without nagging.

Behavior

1. **Same**. How should wives act? They should submit to their husbands.

2. **Wives**. God cares about wives and understands husbands.

3. **Submissive**. While all wives should be submissive to their husbands in the Lord, husbands often make that submission difficult.

4. **Husbands**. Husbands may be disobedient to the word.

5. **Disobedient**. Godly women must learn how to deal with their husbands who are disobedient to the word.

6. **Won**. Living fervently in the family of God means Godly women may win their husbands without a word.

7. **Behavior**. We rejoice today because the behavior of Godly wives may win their disobedient husbands without a word.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by encouraging wives to be submissive to their own husbands in the Lord.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by encouraging husbands not to disobey the word of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God that wives may win their disobedient husbands without a word.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for clear directions for how wives must submit to their own husbands in the Lord. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by encouraging wives to win their disobedient husbands without a word by their behavior?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Two

Chaste Today



How does the wife behave with a disobedient husband? She displays chaste and respectful behavior.

Wives tend to lose respect for their husbands when they are disobedient to the word. Godly wives want to follow the example of Jesus and walk in His footsteps. Even so, God still commands them to be submissive to their own husbands in the Lord. Submission may seem a lot easier when their husbands obey the word.

Please take notice that the wives behave in a respectful and chaste manner all the time. They should never use the excuse that they will not obey the word if their husband does not obey the word. Neither should the wife disobey the word if their husband disobeys the word. Wives should be chaste in their behavior. They should be sexually pure and careful to live to righteousness. Wives should also be respectful of their husbands, even when they are disobedient to the word.

The chase and respectful behavior of wives should be a constant testimony to the husband of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in the marriage. Both husbands and wives must follow together as one in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectful

1. **As**. How does godly behavior affect a husband disobedient to the word? Godly behavior in the wife may win the husband without a word.

2. **They**. As the husband observes the Godly behavior of his wife, the wife may win the husband without a word.

3. **Observe**. The husband observes the wife acting Godly without saying a word to him, without nagging, criticizing or otherwise attacking the husband.

4. **Your**. The wife does her talking with her godly behavior.

5. **Chaste**. The wife must be chaste in her behavior, meaning that she must be sexually pure and Godly in her behavior.

6. **Respectful**. Living fervently in the family of God means the wife must be respectful towards her disobedient husband.

7. **Behavior**. We rejoice today because God cares about the behavior of the wife and can use her chaste and respectful behavior to win the husband without a word.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by loving God for taking care of wives with husbands that are disobedient to the word.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by encouraging wives to submit to their husbands in the Lord by being chaste and respectful towards their husbands who are disobedient to the word.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for providing clear guidance in the family regarding husbands and wives and their interactions.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for encouraging wives to demonstrate chaste and respectful behavior towards their husbands. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by encouraging wives to be chaste and respectful towards their own husbands?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Three

External Today



Was God talking about external behavior? God looks at both the external and internal behavior.

When God said that wives must win disobedient husbands by their behavior, He meant that they must be concerned about more than their external appearance. God did not outlaw braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry or putting on dresses.

God emphasized that those things are not the same as spiritual behavior in the heart. Of course, wives should be chaste and respectful in the way they wear their hair, the jewelry they adorn themselves with, and the dresses they wear. All those things should glorify God and wives should be careful to dress Godly, chastely and respectfully. They should not try to provoke their disobedient husbands by the way they adorn themselves externally.

Wives can have a very powerful effect for good upon their disobedient husbands. Nagging the husband will not produce the response of Godliness in either the wife or the husband.

Dresses

1. **Adornment**. How should wives adorn themselves? They should be careful about their external appearance.
2. **External**. God cares far more about your internal spirit than your external appearance.
3. **Hair**. Braiding your hair will never replace a Godly spirit within you.
4. **Wearing**. Wearing expensive ornaments will never replace a Godly spirit within you.
5. **Gold**. Gold will never be more valuable than a Godly spirit within you.
6. **Putting**. Living fervently in the family of God means putting things on your body will never be more important than a Godly spirit within you.
7. **Dresses**. We rejoice today because God cares far more about a Godly spirit within than the dresses you put on.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by being careful with our external adornment.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by paying close attention to the Holy Spirit within us.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging wives to be more concerned about the Holy Spirit within them than their bodily adornments.**

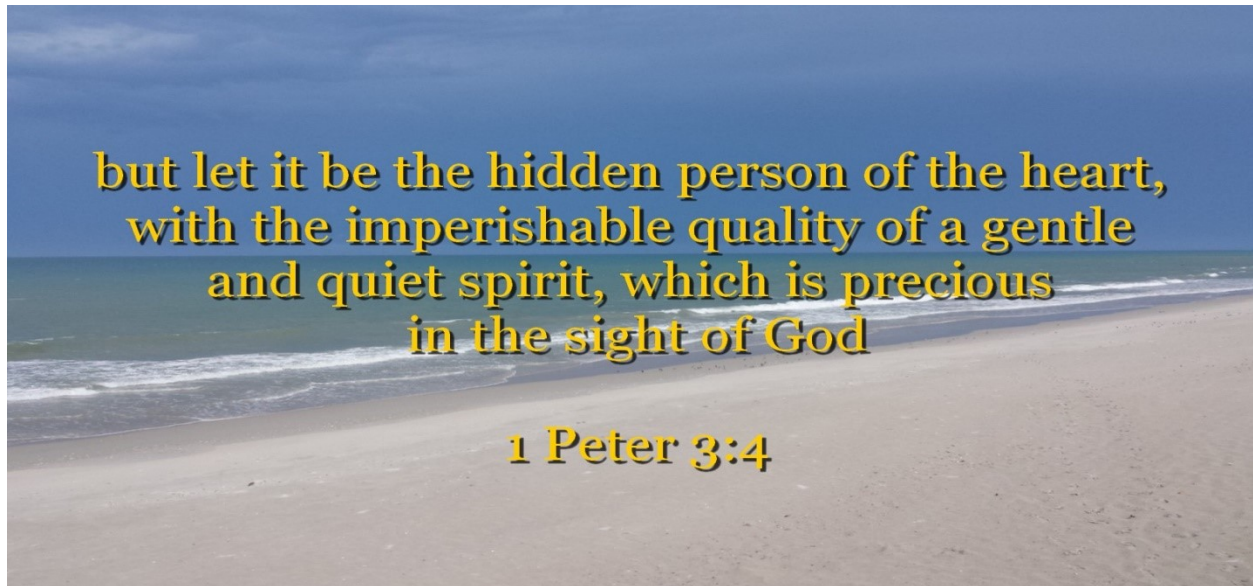
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by never being more concerned about what we are wearing outside than who we are serving inside. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by adorning yourself with Godly works outside and being filled with the Holy Spirit inside?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Four

Gentle Today



What is precious in the sight of God? The gentle and quiet spirit within a wife is precious in the sight of God.

God commanded wives not to focus upon their external adornment when they seek to win their disobedient husbands without a word. Instead, God focused upon the heart and spirit of the wife. God intends for the gentle and quiet spirit within a wife to make all the difference.

Some wives tend not to think about the spirit within them. They often spend more time thinking about what dress to wear, the best hairstyle, or the most flattering jewelry. In contrast God commands them to put on a gentle and quiet spirit. From that gentle and quiet spirit will flow chaste and respectful behavior.

God looks at the hidden person of the heart and works there to produce chaste and respectful behavior towards the husband, even the disobedient husband. The hidden person of the heart must have the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit. Jesus set the example of a gentle and quiet spirit. As we live with a gentle and quiet spirit in our

hearts, we glorify God. He said that a gentle and quiet spirit in the heart is precious in His sight.

Precious

1. **Hidden**. When we look at a person, what do we not see? We do not see directly the spirit within them because it is hidden from sight.
2. **Heart**. God keeps a careful eye on the hidden person of the heart.
3. **Imperishable**. Our hearts may have wonderful imperishable qualities.
4. **Gentle**. God values a gentle spirit of the heart.
5. **Quiet**. God also values a quiet spirit of the heart.
6. **Spirit**. Living fervently in the family of God means wives can win their husbands without a word by the gentle and quiet spirit of their heart.
7. **Precious**. We rejoice today because God loves a gentle and quiet spirit in the heart of women, which is precious in the sight of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the gentle and quiet spirit of the heart.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by praising God that a gentle and quiet spirit of the heart is precious in His sight.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God Who helps us to have a gentle and quiet spirit.**

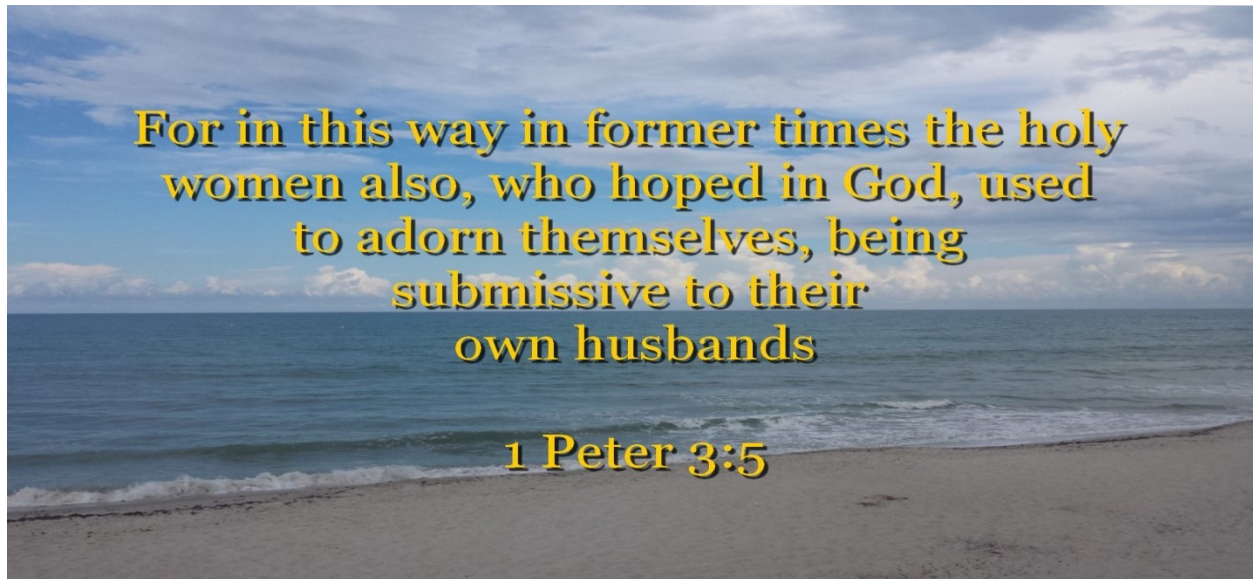
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by encouraging wives to have a gentle and quiet spirit in their hearts so that they may win their husbands who are disobedient to the word without speaking a word. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by being more concerned about the spirit within you than the outward appearance of disobedient people around you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Five

Holy Women Today



How did holy women of old adorn themselves? They adorned themselves by first being submissive to their own husbands.

Peter turned back the pages of history to remind people about women who submitted to their husbands in the way they adorned themselves. Peter was not making an argument based upon current culture. Peter was not saying that in the culture of the New Testament, women must adorn themselves with submission to their husbands. God was commanding women to be submissive to their husbands from Eve forward for all time. Today, many people want wives to avoid submission to anyone. God always wants wives to be submissive to their own husbands, even when those husbands are disobedient to the word.

Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter also talked about hoping in God. Peter described the Godly women of old as hoping in God. They focused their hope upon God. By hoping in God, those women adorned themselves with chaste and respectful behavior, having adorned themselves with a quiet and gentle spirit in their hearts. They too followed in the footsteps of Jesus.

Submissive

1. **Way**. In times past, how did Godly women act? They adorned themselves with a gentle and quiet spirit, being submissive to their own husbands.

2. **Times**. The Holy Spirit looked back upon former times when wives demonstrated their Godliness as an example for future generations.

3. **Holy**. The holy women of old knew how to adorn themselves on the inside.

4. **Women**. Those women were very careful about their adornment.

5. **Hoped**. They hoped in God.

6. **Submissive**. Living fervently in the family of God means the holy women of old were submissive to their own husbands.

7. **Husbands**. We rejoice today because God always cares for women who adorn themselves properly so that they may be submissive to their own husbands, particularly winning husbands disobedient to the word without a word by their chaste and respectful behavior.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering the holy women of God who are submissive to their own husbands.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by encouraging women to hope in God and to be careful about their adornment.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by remembering that a gentle and quiet spirit remains precious in the sight of God for generations to come.**

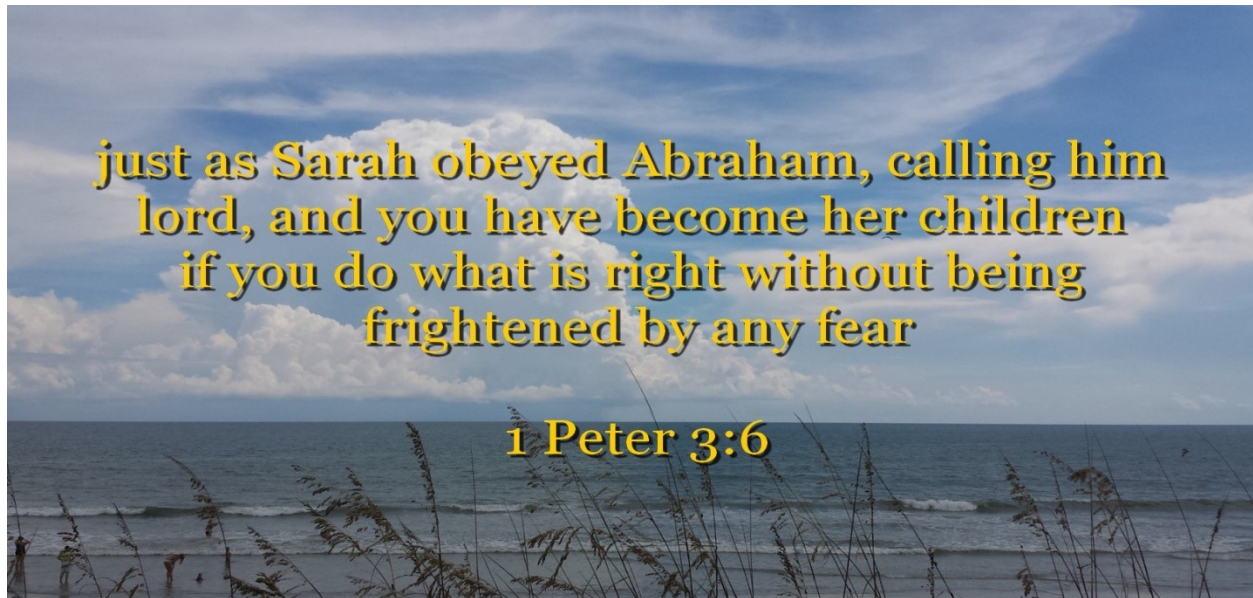
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by setting an example today of godliness so that later generations may benefit from our examples. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by being careful about your adornment so that you may set a Godly example for future generations?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Six

Sarah Today



What did Sarah call Abraham? Sarah called Abraham lord.

Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Peter, provided very specific directions for family relationships. The commands that he presented covered thousands of years of human relationships. They were not specific to any time or place or culture. God described universal relationships between husbands and wives, among those who believe in Him for salvation.

Peter cited Sarah as an example of a Godly woman. She called her husband, Abraham, lord. She obeyed Abraham. Peter said that women today, as in his day, should become like Sarah in the way she obeyed and respected her husband. Wives can live with their husbands without fear.

So often people today do not want to submit to anybody, including God. Many wives do not want to submit to their husbands. When they read the New Testament teachings about husbands and wives, they often conclude that that it provided outdated traditions followed by ignorant

people. When they say such things, they overlook God writing the New Testament through His human authors filled with the Holy Spirit. God said He provided specific directions for husbands and wives as commands for all generations.

Right

1. **Sarah**. Who did Peter cite as an example of a Godly woman? Peter cited Sarah.
2. **Obedied**. Sarah obeyed Abraham, her husband.
3. **Abraham**. Abraham was the father of the Jews and of many nations.
4. **Lord**. Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.
5. **Children**. Women today can become the children of Sarah if they do what is right.
6. **Right**. Living fervently in the family of God means women should submit to their husbands like Sarah did and doing what is right before God.
7. **Fear**. We rejoice today because women can submit to their husbands by doing right without being frightened by any fear.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that Sarah called Abraham lord.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God understanding that women can live in submission to their husbands without fear by doing what is right.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging women to follow the example of Sarah who called her husband lord.**

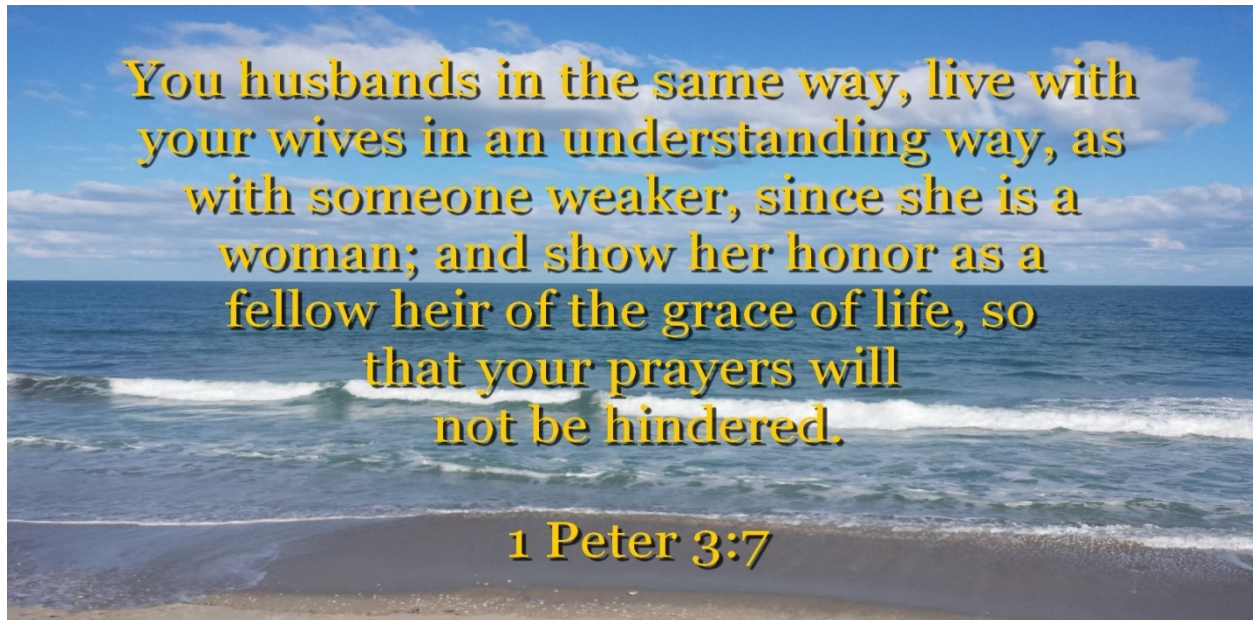
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering Sarah who called Abraham lord. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by encouraging women to be like Sarah in the way they submit to their husbands?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Seven

Husbands Today



What honor should husband show their wives? They should honor their wives as fellow heirs of the grace of life.

God has always highly valued wives. God created Eve and she was weaker than Adam. God commanded all husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker. Although wives are weaker than their husbands, in no way are they any less valuable in God's eyes.

God commands husbands to show their wives honor as fellow heirs of the grace of life. God created Eve from the rib of Adam. In marriage the two become one flesh. What God has joined together, no man should separate. God has the highest view of marriage and empowers marriage to reflect His glory. Husbands and wives should both follow God's commandments regarding marriage.

Because God has created wives to be fellow heirs of the grace of God, husbands should treat their wives with great love from God. They should

also honor God by honoring their wives. God created wives to be fellow heirs of the grace of life. If husbands ignore God's commands regarding wives, then the husband's prayers will be hindered.

Understanding

1. **Husbands**. How should husbands treat their wives? Husbands should treat their wives as the weaker person.
2. **Live**. Husband should live with their wives in an understanding way.
3. **Understanding**. Husbands should live with their wives, understanding that they are weaker creatures.
4. **Weaker**. Wives are weaker than husbands, but no less valuable to God.
5. **Woman**. Because your wife is a woman, she is a weaker person.
6. **Honor**. Living fervently in the family of God means husbands must honor their wives as fellow heirs of the grace of life.
7. **Prayers**. We rejoice today because when husbands honor their wives as the weaker person, their prayers will not be hindered.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that husbands must treat their wives as the weaker persons, because they are women.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by husbands honoring their wives as fellow heirs of the grace of life.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by husbands honoring their wives so that their prayers will not be hindered.**

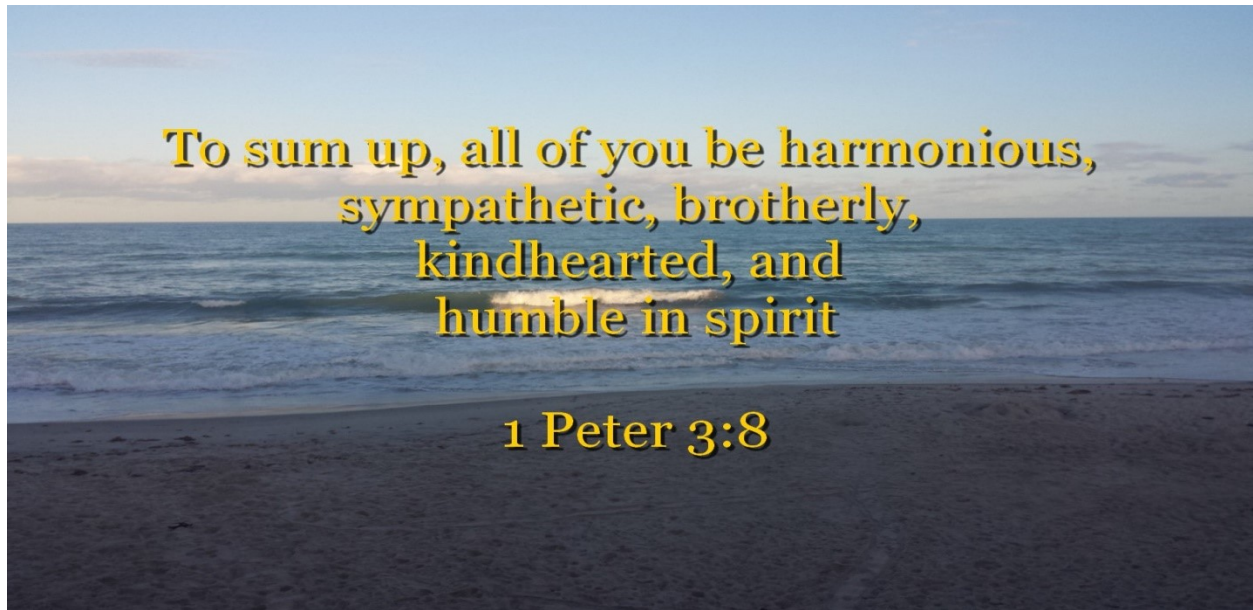
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by husbands honoring their wives so that their prayers will not be hindered. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by honoring your wife today as a fellow heir of the grace of life?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Eight

Harmonious Today



What qualities does God want husbands to demonstrate to their wives? God wants both husbands and wives to be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted and humble in spirit.

Peter summed up his commands for husbands and wives with general commands. All saints should live in harmony with one another. They should promote that harmony actively.

All saints should be sympathetic to one another. Jesus remains very sympathetic to us because He understands our sufferings and joys. He took flesh and dwelt among us and so has first-hand experience with being human. Of course, as God He has perfect knowledge of all things.

All saints should be brotherly towards one another and kindhearted. As saints express brotherly love for one another, they should do so from a kind heart. They treat one another in the same way that Jesus treats us. His love knows no bounds and His forgiveness covers all sins. Finally, all saints should live in humility and avoid telling people frequently how humble they

are, especially in their prayers to God. God always knows our humility without the need to tell Him.

Humble

1. **Sum**. How did Peter sum things up? Peter summed up by listing spiritual qualities everyone should have.
2. **Harmonious**. Saints must have harmonious lives.
3. **Sympathetic**. Saints must be sympathetic to one another.
4. **Brotherly**. Saints must treat each other with brotherly love.
5. **Kindhearted**. Saints must be kindhearted to one another.
6. **Humble**. Living fervently in the family of God means saints must be humble with one another.
7. **Spirit**. We rejoice today because God values a humble spirit which every saint must possess.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by being harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted and humble in spirit to each other.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God developing Godly qualities every day.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by striving by the power of the Holy Spirit to treat others as God treats us.**

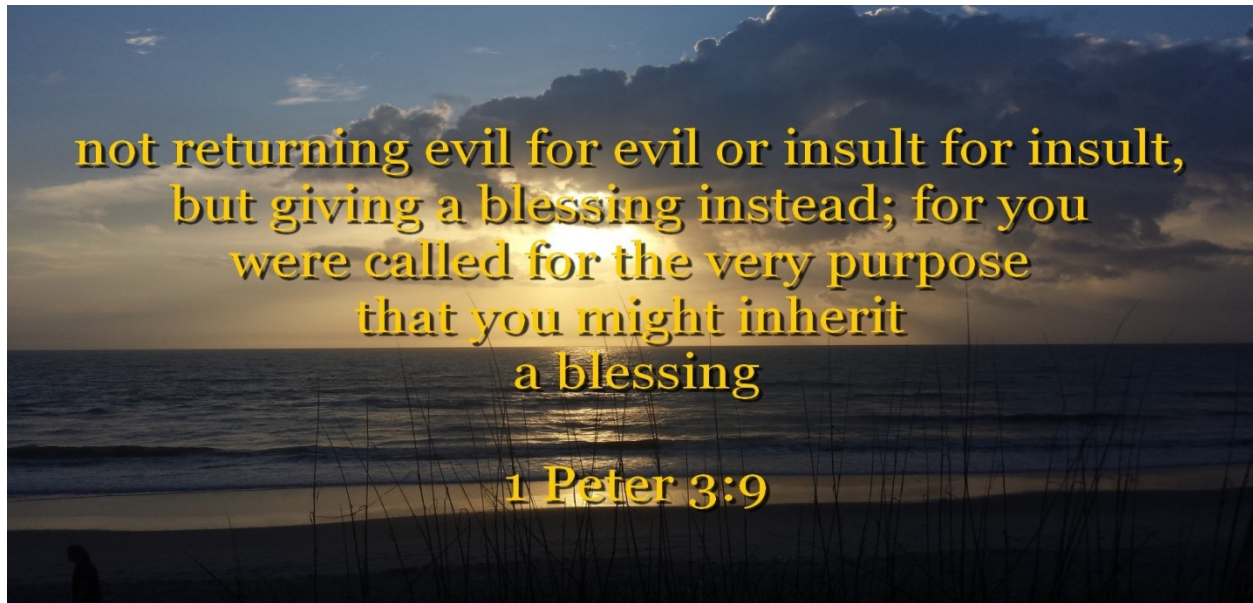
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praying that the Holy Spirit would produce in us the qualities He loves most. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by delighting in the qualities God produces in you every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Fifty Nine

Blessing Today



When should we bless people? We should bless people when they insult us and do evil to us.

As hard as it may be to imagine, we do not repay people according to how they treated us in the first place. If God applied that same principle to us, none of us would have eternal life and all of us would be in the Lake of Fire for eternity.

God notices every time people do evil things to us. Nothing escapes His attention. Even so, God commands us not to repay evil with evil. Human evil nature urges us to repay in-kind or to repay even more. God commands us to avoid such evil repayments.

Likewise, God does not want us to repay one insult with another insult. No matter how angry we may feel when people insult us or someone we love, we have no right before God to insult them. God does not want us hurling insults at anyone just because they insulted us first. Instead of returning evil for evil and insult for insult, God commands us to offer them a blessing. God promises us that we will present a bright

testimony for Him when we act like Him and demonstrate His love. God called us to inherit a blessing. Just as we received blessing from God, so also we pass on blessing from God to everyone.

Instead

1. **Returning**. Does God want us to return as good as we get? God never wants us to return evil for evil.
2. **Evil**. Some people delight in returning evil for evil.
3. **Insult**. Some people delight in returning insult with insult.
4. **But**. But God commands believers to act differently from the world.
5. **Giving**. God wants us to give people a blessing instead of evil and insults.
6. **Blessing**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we give blessings when other people insult us and do evil to us.
7. **Instead**. We rejoice today by remembering to give a blessing when people give us evil or insults. We were called to inherit a blessing.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by giving blessings to people who insult us or do evil to us.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by not returning the things people do to us back to them.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by blessing people in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ when they insult us and do evil things to us.**

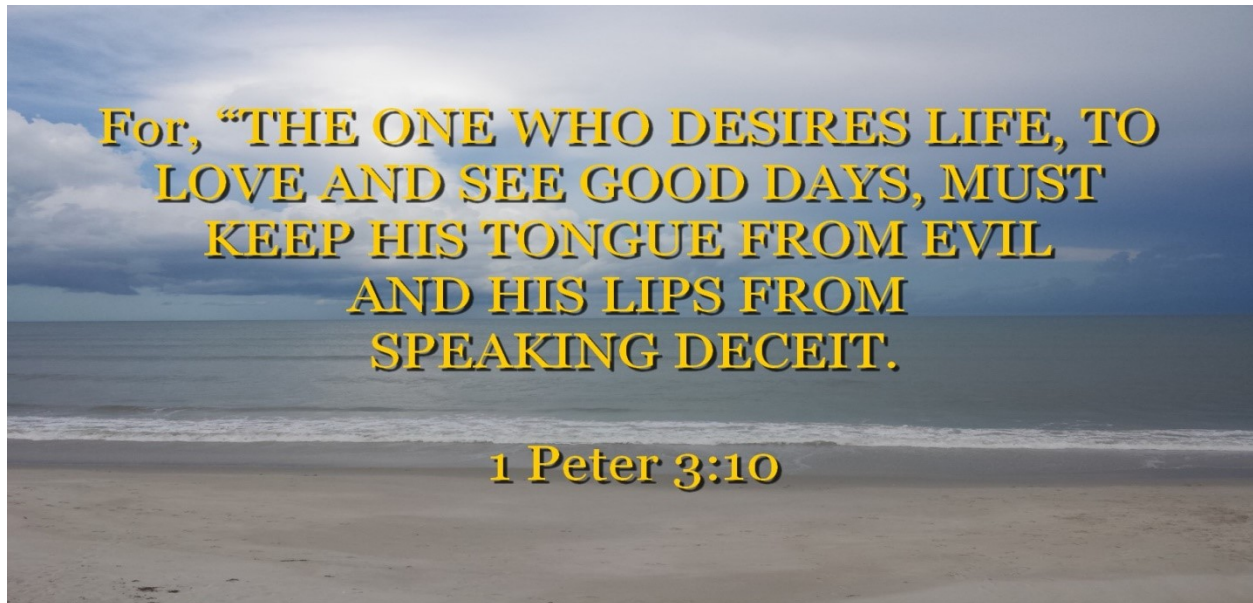
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by blessing people who insult us and do evil things to us. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by giving blessings to people who insult you and do evil things to you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty

Good Days Today



Why must we keep our lips from speaking evil and keep our tongues from lying? We do those things because we desire life and to see good days and to love.

God revealed why people have many bad days. They bring bad days upon themselves by ignoring God's commandments. For some people, ignoring God's commandments shortens their life.

God explained that our tongues and our lips get us into all kinds of trouble. If we want a life of good days and love, then we must control our tongues and our lips with God's power. Only God's power can help us overcome the natural tendencies of our tongues and our lips to get us into serious spiritual trouble.

God commands us to keep our tongues from evil. God wants us to restrain our tongues with His power. We can use our tongues for good and to spread the love of God. God commands us to keep our lips from deceit. We should never try to shade the truth or say things to induce people to do what we want by not

telling them what they really need to know. Deceit creeps in quietly but creates a furor when it becomes known.

Keep his Tongue

1. **Desires**. If you desire life, love and good days, what should you do? You should guard your tongue and your lips.

2. **Life**. God created life and intends for us to have eternal life in Him.

3. **Love**. We love because God first loved us.

4. **Good**. Only God is good, but He brought all His goodness into our lives at the moment of salvation.

5. **Tongue**. Saints must keep their tongue under control and away from evil.

6. **Evil**. Living fervently in the family of God means unless God restrains them and controls them, our tongues will do great evil.

7. **Deceit**. We rejoice today that God can control our lives so that we do not speak deceit to anyone.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by keeping our tongues from evil and our lips from deceit.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by God controlling our tongues and our lips so that we please Him in all things.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by remembering the Holy Spirit can give us the words of edification according to the need of the moment.**

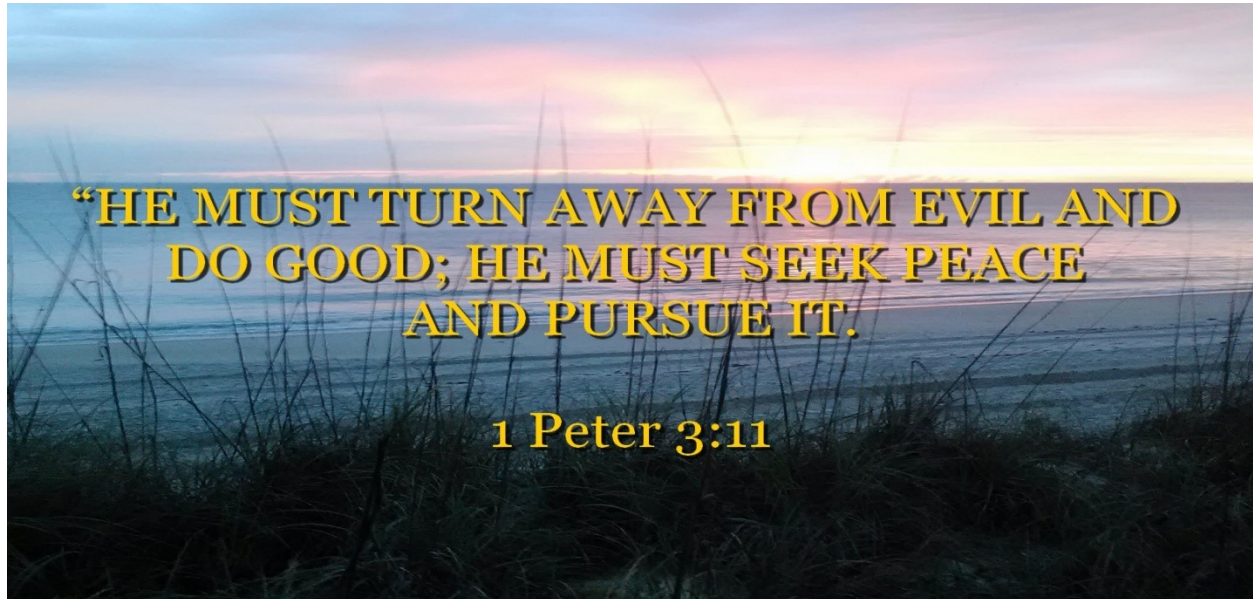
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praying the Holy Spirit will guard and keep our lips and tongues all day long, every day. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to keep your mouth from evil and deceit?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty One

Do Good Today



What must we pursue in life? We must seek peace and pursue it.

In order to see good days, one must turn away from evil and do good. Jesus told a man that only God is good. Therefore, only God can produce good works. If we are to produce good works, we must trust God to produce those good works in our lives. In fact, God said that we are His craftsmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we would walk in them.

Not only must we turn away from evil, but we must also seek peace and pursue it. Many aggressive people try to make us join them in their evil. As we turn away from evil, we simultaneously seek peace. Seeking peace means that we know what we want. We have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our peace and will always be our peace. He alone purchased peace with God for us by shedding His precious blood on the cross. Only because we have received the free gift of eternal life from Jesus Christ do we have peace with God.

Peter also described pursuing peace. Many people in our lives hate peace and want nobody else to have peace. They certainly oppose any peace with God because they are children of the devil. Even so, we pursue peace with all people.

Seek Peace

1. **He**. What does God seek from us? God wants us to turn away from evil and do good.
2. **Turn**. Turning means a change of heart and behavior.
3. **Evil**. Evil comes in many forms, but saints must turn away from all of them.
4. **Good**. Jesus said that only God is good, so we must turn away from evil and do good.
5. **Seek**. We must also seek out things and actively pursue them.
6. **Peace**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we actively pursue peace.
7. **Pursue**. We rejoice today because we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and so pursue peace in His strength.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by turning away from evil and doing good.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by pursuing peace.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by seeking peace with all men.**

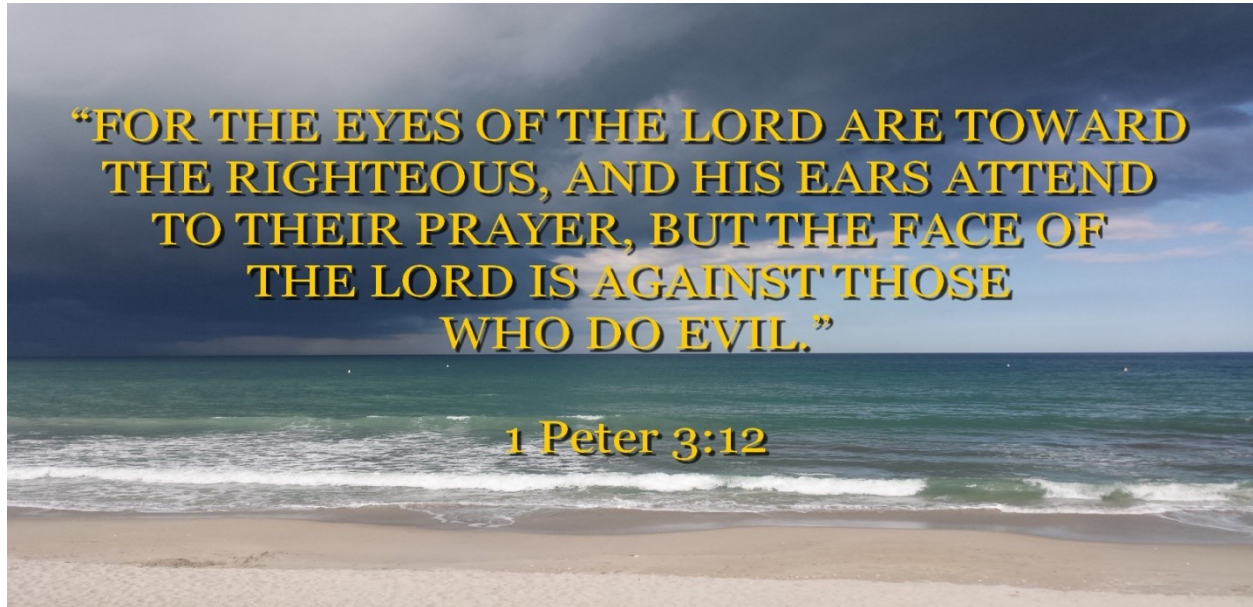
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by turning away from evil, doing good, and pursuing peace with all people. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by thanking God that we can pursue peace with all people because we received peace with God from the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Two

Eyes of the Lord Today



What do the eyes of Yahweh see? The eyes of Yahweh are toward the righteous.

As we seek peace, God wants us to know about His attitude towards us. His eyes are toward the righteous and His ears attend to their prayers. God is a spirit, but the Bible describes God as having a nose and eyes and hands and a face. In this case God wants us to know that His ears listen to our prayers.

God revealed through Peter the very personal nature of God. His eyes look at us and His ears hear us. He loves us and wants us to talk with Him and pursue peace with all people. God sees the righteous and looks after them.

God also knows the wicked and their ways. God opposes the wicked and all that they do. Their prayers are an abomination to God. We praise God today because we were once wicked, but God in His great mercy gave us eternal life through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God wants us to know about our favored position with Him. His eyes see us and His ears listen to our prayers. Our loving God loves to hear from us.

Face

1. **Eyes**. What do the eyes of Yahweh see? The eyes of Yahweh see the righteous.
2. **Yahweh**. Yahweh's eyes are always upon the righteous.
3. **Righteous**. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Savior brings everlasting righteousness.
4. **Ears**. The ears of Yahweh attend to the prayers of the righteous.
5. **Prayer**. The prayer the righteous ascends to the ears of Yahweh.
6. **Face**. Living fervently in the family of God means we know the face of Yahweh is against those who do evil.
7. **Evil**. We rejoice today because Yahweh sees the righteous and hears their prayers, but His face is against those who do evil.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that Yahweh hears the prayers of the righteous.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God understanding that the face of Yahweh is against the evildoers.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praying together and doing good together.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising Yahweh that He hears all of our prayers and His eyes look upon us. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that Yahweh sets His face against the evildoers?

HALLELUJAH!

5

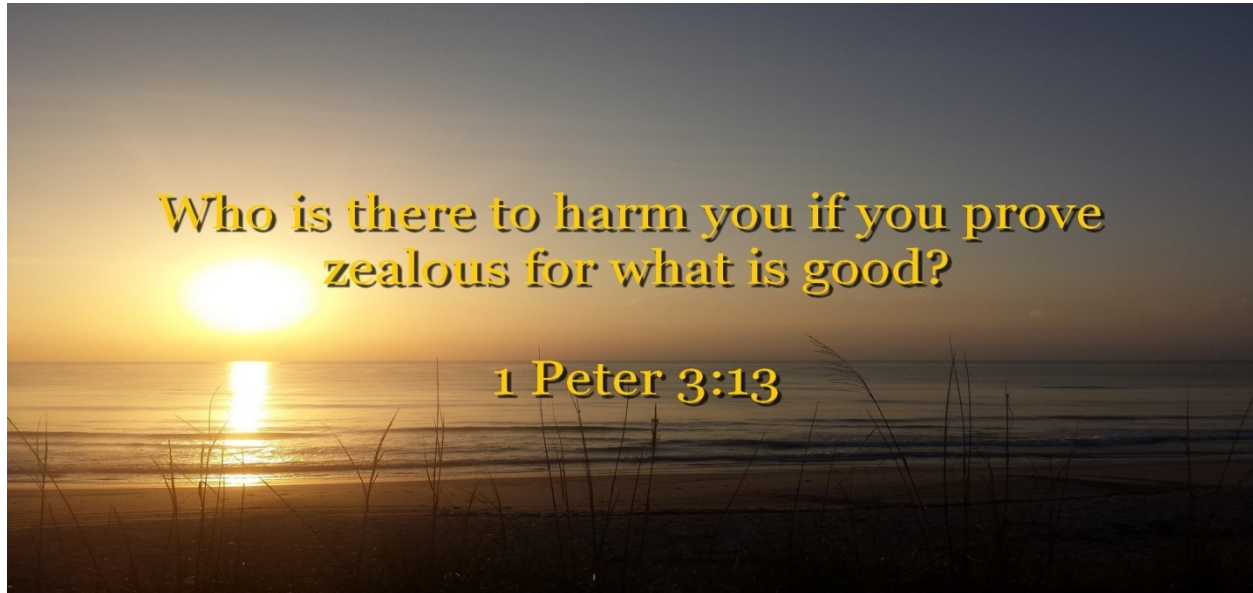
Suffering in Christ Today

Saints must follow the example of Christ in suffering. They must arm themselves with the same purpose, because those who have suffered in the flesh have ceased from sin. They live the rest of the time in the flesh, no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. The Gentiles are surprised that the saints do not run with them into evil and so malign Christians. They will give an account to Him Who is ready to judge the living and the dead. Therefore, the saints preach the Gospel to those who are dead, so that they may live in the spirit, according to the will of God.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Sixty Three

Zealous Today



If we prove zealous for what is good, what benefit does that bring into our lives? Being zealous for good means that there is no one to harm us.

You may think that Peter said that all believers will suffer all the time. Peter certainly discussed how we endure suffering and get through it here on earth. But Peter also wants us to know that no spiritual harm comes to us because we are safe in Christ and have eternal life. The evil one cannot even touch us.

We prove to be zealous for good works by pursuing peace and not repaying evil for evil, but giving them a blessing instead. Only God can empower our good works and He loves to take care of us every day.

At the moment of salvation, Jesus puts us in His hand where the Father also covers us with His hand. With the hands of God upon us, He keeps us securely for all eternity. No one can touch us for evil with the hands of God around us. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces in many places. As we put on the armor of God, we

know that we stand fast in Christ and will be able to continue to stand in Him against all the wiles of the devil.

Good

1. **Who**. Who opposes the righteous? Yahweh is greater than all who oppose the righteous.

2. **Harm**. Yahweh assures us that no one can harm us as we pursue what is good.

3. **You**. God knows us and the trials we face.

4. **Prove**. While people may attack us, we prove zealous for God.

5. **Zealous**. We remain zealous for good works because we know that God prevents spiritual harm to us.

6. **What**. Living fervently in the family of God means we remember that God protects us from all harm as we are zealous to do good.

7. **Good**. We rejoice today God wants us to be zealous to do good all day, every day.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by being zealous for what is good.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God counting upon God to protect us from harm as we do what is good.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God that He protects us from spiritual harm as we pursue what is good with great zeal.**

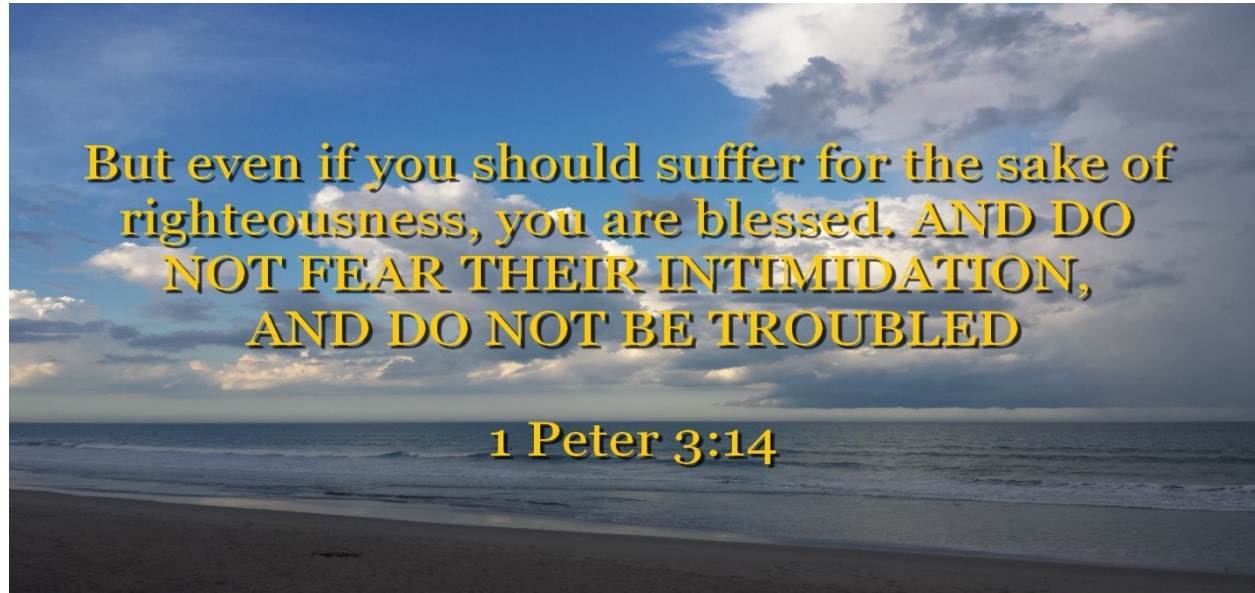
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by being zealous to do what is good. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by asking yourself who can harm you as you are zealous for what is good?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Four

Do Not Fear Today



What effect should suffering for the sake of righteousness have upon us? We should consider ourselves blessed.

Peter asked who is there to harm us if we prove zealous for what is good. Peter then disclosed that even if we should suffer for the sake of righteousness, we are blessed. We share in the sufferings of Christ just as we share in the blessings of Christ.

While our spiritual man may not be harmed by persecution and affliction, our bodies may suffer greatly. If we suffer greatly for the sake of righteousness, God wants us to remember that He will bless us for doing so.

Evil people also try to induce fear in the saints. Jesus told us not to fear the people who can harm our bodies and kill them, but after that they have no more power. Jesus said to fear God who has power after death to cast people into hell. When evil people make us suffer for our faith, we must keep in mind that God says we do not need to fear them or be troubled by

them. Their attempts to intimidate us at the armor of God we are wearing will fall harmlessly to the ground.

God also understands that we can be troubled by intimidation and physical attacks. He commands us not to be troubled by such things, but to entrust ourselves to Him who judges rightly, just as Jesus did.

Intimidation

1. **Suffer**. Does God want us to fear persecution? God commands us not to fear intimidation.

2. **Sake**. If we suffer for the sake of righteousness, we are blessed.

3. **Righteousness**. Pursuing righteousness includes suffering for the sake of Christ.

4. **Blessed**. God wants us to know we are blessed when we suffer for Him.

5. **Fear**. The fear of them we may not fear.

6. **Intimidation**. Living fervently in the family of God means we do not fear even when they try to make us fear them.

7. **Troubled**. We rejoice today because God commands us not to be troubled by the things the enemies of God do to put fear into us.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering we are blessed by God when we suffer for the sake of righteousness.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by never allowing the enemies of God to make us fear them.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by never being troubled as our enemies try to arouse our fears.**

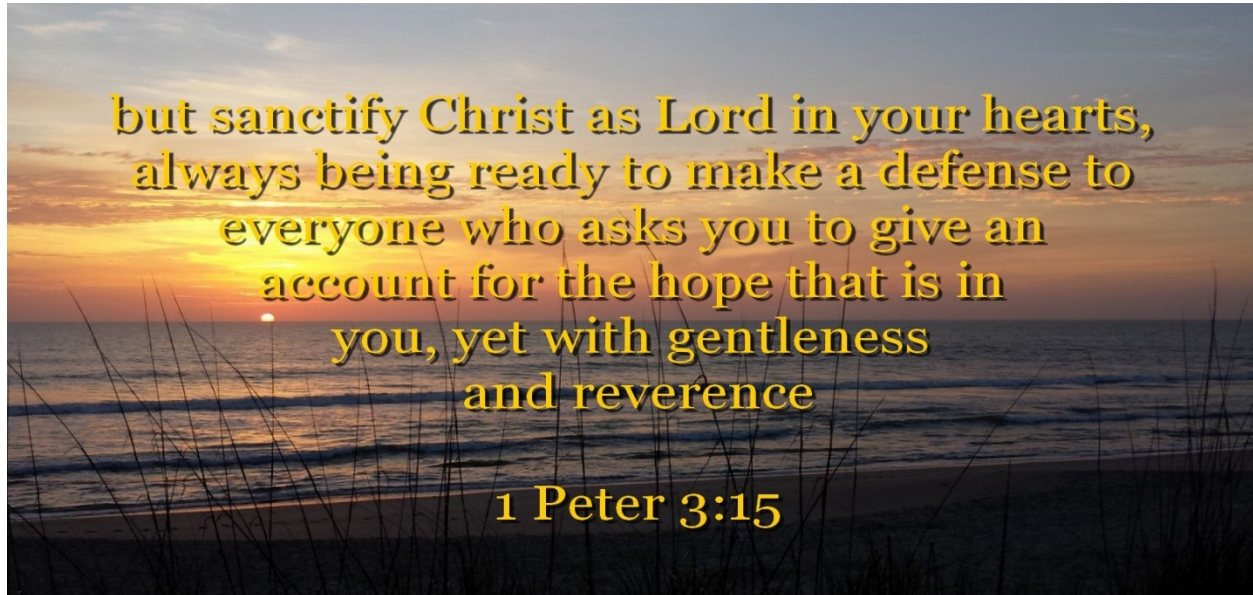
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by suffering for the sake of righteousness. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by never fearing the enemies of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Five

Sanctify Today



Why do we sanctify Christ in our hearts? So that we may give an account of the hope that is within us.

People tend to notice the hope in believers when everyone else is freaking out. As circumstances in this world grow darker and darker, the hope of believers grows brighter and brighter. People will seek to know why we have hope when no one else does.

We must be ready to make a defense to people who ask us about our hope. As the days grow darker, our hope grows brighter. The way of the righteous shines brighter and brighter until the full light of dawn. We live in a world full of evil that is only growing more evil over time. Yet, we place all of our hope in Jesus and His power of eternal life at work in our lives today.

God also told us to give our accounts of the hope that is within us with gentleness and reverence. Our hope does not reside in our own abilities, powers or prowess. Our hope resides solely in the Lord Jesus Christ, Who covers us with His blood and leads us to glory. We are His sheep and we

follow the Good Shepherd Who calls us by name. He makes us to lie down in green pastures and leads us by quiet waters. The valley of the shadow of death does not cause us to fear, for He is with us.

Reverence

1. **Sanctify**. What defense do we make? We make a defense of the hope that is within us by sanctifying the Lord in our hearts.
2. **Christ**. We sanctify Jesus Christ in our lives.
3. **Lord**. We sanctify Jesus Christ as Lord in our lives.
4. **Hearts**. Sanctification of Jesus as Lord takes place in our hearts.
5. **Defense**. We must always be ready to make a defense of the hope that is within us.
6. **Asks**. Living fervently in the family of God means we are ready to make a defense to people who ask us to give an account of the hope that is in us.
7. **Gentleness**. We rejoice today we make our defense of our hope with gentleness and reverence.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by always being ready to make a defense of the hope that is within you.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God we make our defense with gentleness and reverence.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by looking forward to making a defense of the hope that is within us to people who ask us about our hope today.**

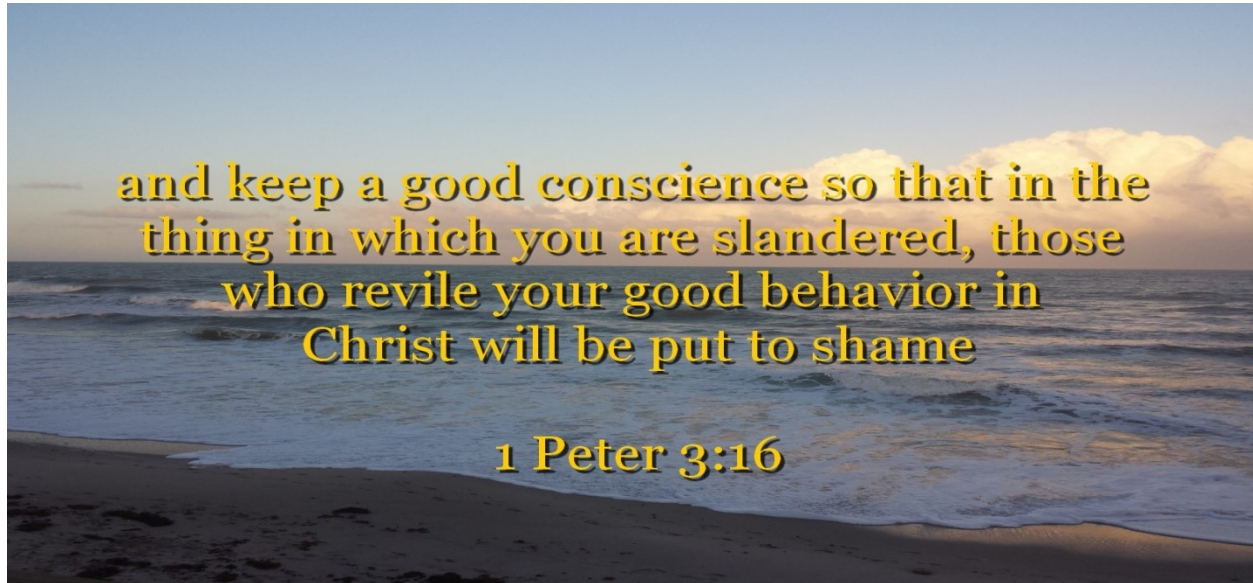
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by being ready to make a defense of the hope within you. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by making a defense of the hope that is within you with gentleness and reverence?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Six

Conscience Today



Why do we keep a good conscience? We keep a good conscience so that we can put to shame people who slander us.

People attack saints all the time. They say things that are not true which damage our reputation for Christ. They also revile us for doing the right thing in the eyes of God. They even wonder why we do not run with them into sin.

Peter commanded us to keep our conscience clean. While our conscience will never be a perfect and utterly reliable guide to correct behavior, it does help us understand some evil behavior. The Scriptures provide a perfect guide to our behavior. God sets a universal standard for all of us. We must not fall short of His glory.

Peter also informed us that we can live a Godly life, and the world will hate us for it. Doing God's will brings worldly opposition. Jesus warned us that they hated Him without cause and they would do the same thing to us. Peter laid out a plan for combating the slander of the world. People will slander us and revile us for doing God's will. Our conscience helps us

remember that we are pleasing God. As we focus upon pleasing God, our good behavior helps to silence those people who slander and revile us.

Behavior

1. **Keep**. Why should we keep a good conscience? We keep a good conscience because people slander us.

2. **Conscience**. We keep a good conscience by pursuing righteousness and turning away from evil.

3. **Slandered**. People slander us by reviling our good behavior in Christ.

4. **Revile**. People revile us because we are not of the world and the world hates Christ, our Master.

5. **Good**. We should expect that people will revile us for our good behavior.

6. **Christ**. Living fervently in the family of God means we keep a good conscience so that our good works put to shame the people who revile us.

7. **Shame**. We rejoice today because God has a plan to silence those who revile us for our good works.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by keeping a good conscience and doing good works for God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that our good works will shame those who slanderously seek to revile us for our good behavior.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to keep a good conscience so that we may put to shame people who slander us for our righteous acts.**

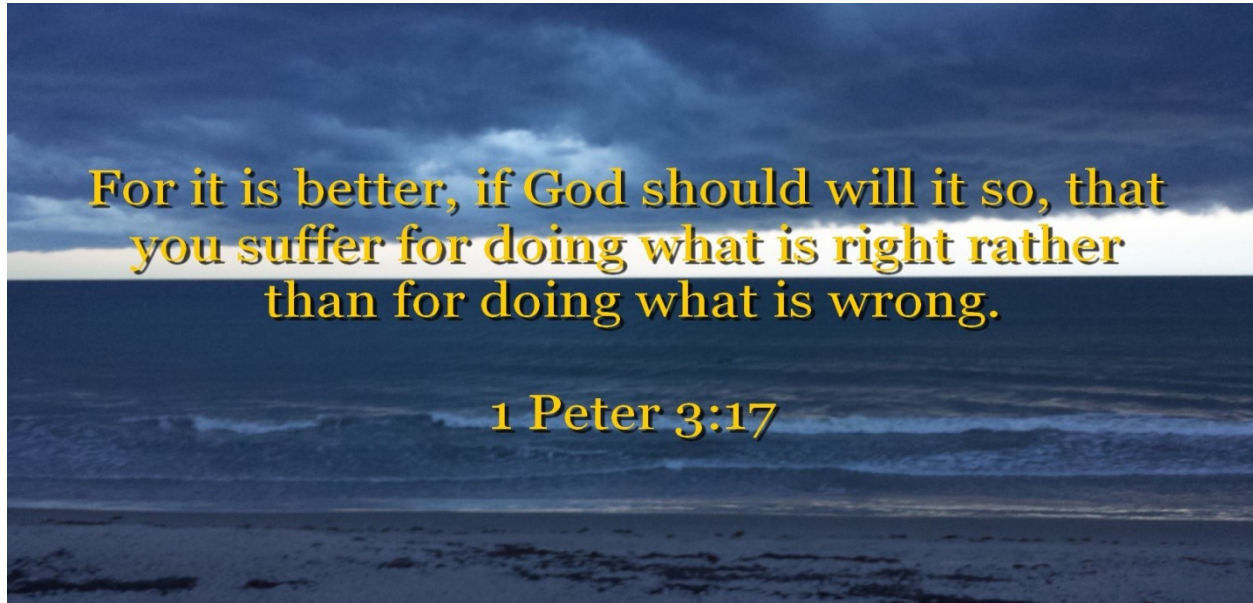
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by keeping a good conscience before God at all times. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God that He knows how to shame those who slander us for our good works?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Seven

Better Today



Does God ever will people to suffer? God wills some people to suffer some of the time.

As we wonder about suffering in this world, we must remember that Jesus came and suffered for us. He willingly subjected Himself to suffering so that we could go free. Jesus took the full blast of God's wrath so that we would live in peace with God for eternity.

Sometimes Christians make headlines because they are arrested for doing horrible crimes. When that happens, the rest of the Christians tend to duck their heads in shame because the body of Christ has taken a serious blow. When Christians suffer for doing crimes and other evil things, they show that God is impartial and Christians are not immune from prosecution by the government for crimes they commit. God established the government to punish evildoers and praise those who do right.

Peter reminded us that it is far better to suffer for doing what is right than to suffer for doing wrong. Suffering can come from the government or

come from individuals. At times unbelievers make us suffer. In all cases God allows His children to suffer, some for even doing right.

Suffer

1. **Better**. Is it better to suffer for doing the right thing? God told us it is far better to suffer doing the right thing than to suffer for doing the wrong thing.

2. **God**. God makes decisions according to His will; He does not need advice from anybody else. God wills for some people to suffer for doing the right thing.

3. **Suffer**. Suffering can take many forms, including physical and mental abuse.

4. **Doing**. God really cares what we are doing and how we do it.

5. **Right**. He never promised that if we do the right thing, we will not suffer for it.

6. **Rather**. Living fervently in the family of God means God wills for some people to suffer for doing the right thing, but it is far better to be suffering for doing the right thing rather than suffering for doing the wrong thing.

7. **Wrong**. We rejoice today we all did the wrong thing over and over again, but God took all the suffering we deserve and put it on Jesus that we would be able to do the right thing in Him forever.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by doing the right thing.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that God wills for some people to suffer for doing the right thing.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by reminding one another that is better to suffer for doing the right thing rather than suffering for doing the wrong thing.**

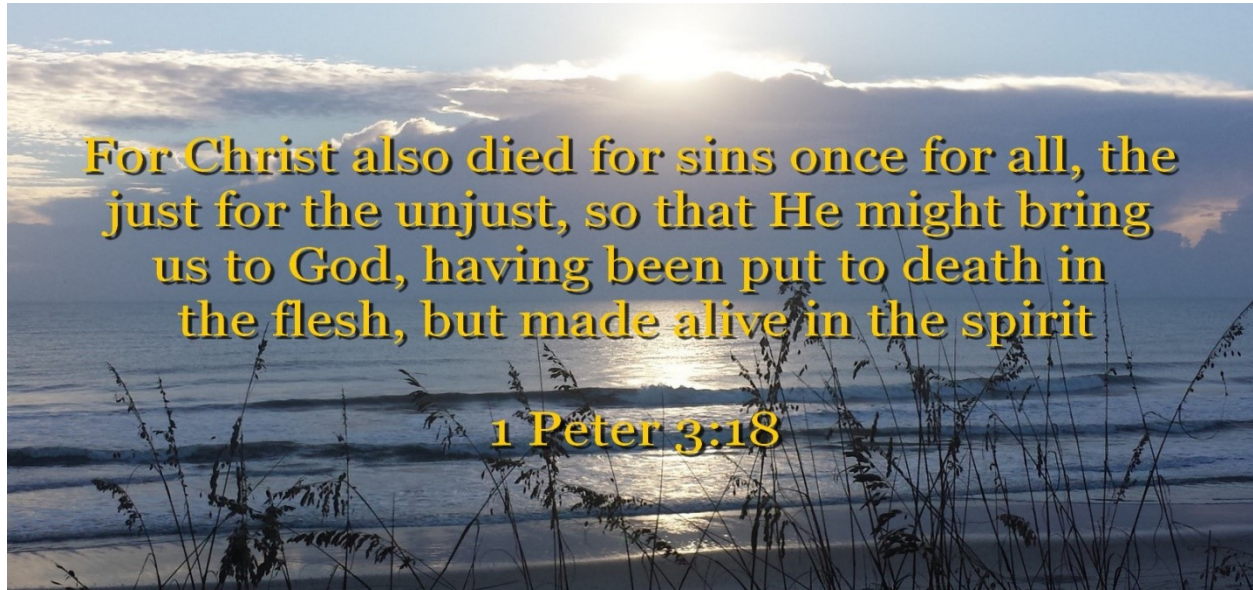
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for loving us even when we do the wrong thing and suffer for it. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that God wills for some people to suffer for doing the right thing?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Eight

Once Today



Why did Jesus die for the unjust? Jesus died for the unjust so that He might justify them.

Jesus justifies people by faith alone. God never accepts people into heaven because they have done good things. Doing good things never makes up for all the bad things we have done. Jesus came as the perfect sacrifice for sin because He had never sinned. Jesus loves sinners and so became sin for us.

Jesus was just, but died for the unjust. All along Jesus planned on dying for us so that He might bring us to God the Father. Jesus died in the flesh. He had a real body like we have and it suffered tremendously for our sins. Although Jesus suffered and died in the body, He was made alive in the spirit.

Jesus was both fully God and fully man. He took flesh and dwelt among men and they beheld the glory of God dwelling in bodily form. Jesus said that to see Him was to see His Father. Jesus submitted Himself to

doing the will of the Father. Therefore, Jesus took flesh and died for us so that He might bring us to His Father. By suffering in His mortal flesh, Jesus atoned for our sins by making a perfect sacrifice for sins.

Death

1. **Christ**. Why did Christ die? So that He could bring us to God.
2. **Died**. Christ died for our sins.
3. **Sins**. Christ Himself never sinned, but died for all of our sins.
4. **Once**. Christ died once for all of our sins.
5. **Just**. Christ was righteous and He died for the unrighteous.
6. **Bring**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christ died for us so He could bring us to God.
7. **Flesh**. We rejoice today because Christ died in the flesh, but was made alive in the spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that Christ died once for all our sins.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God praising God that Christ died in the flesh, but was made alive in the spirit.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for His plan for Christ to die once so that He could bring us to God.**

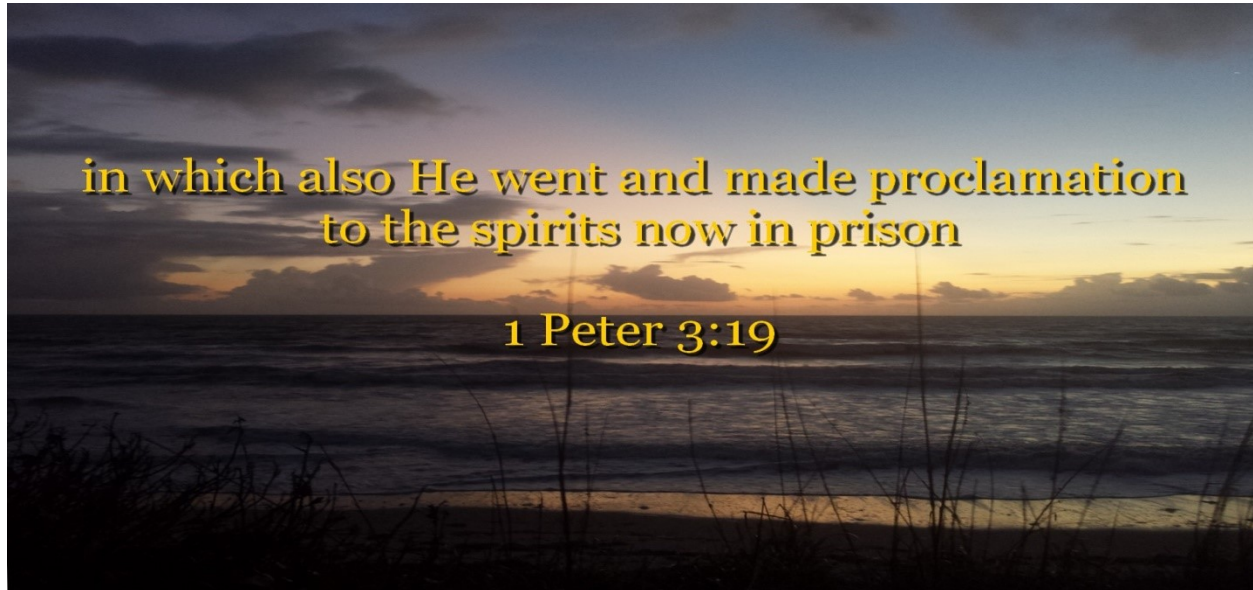
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by loving Jesus for dying once for all our sins. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising Jesus for taking all of our sins in His flesh so that He could bring us to God holy and spotless?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Sixty Nine

Proclamation Today



How did Jesus make proclamation to the spirits? Jesus made proclamation in His spirit.

Jesus died in the flesh, but was made alive in the spirit. Our spirits live on after our bodies die. You may recall that Jesus commended His spirit into the hands of His Father at death. People tend to forget that we all have a spirit that survives our death. In fact, many spirits never had bodies. For example, demons like to inhabit human bodies or even animal bodies, like swine. Demons may leave a body and return to a body, bringing seven more with them. When demons met Jesus of Nazareth, they immediately recognized Him as God with full power to torture them right then. They feared Jesus of Nazareth because they recognized Him spiritually as God in the flesh.

God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. Therefore, we know that our spirits are capable of many different kinds of actions. Jesus did not need to take flesh to make proclamation to the spirits. Jesus went in His spirit and made proclamation to spirits.

Spirits

1. **Which**. What spirits did Christ talk to? He proclaimed to the spirits in prison.
2. **Went**. In His spirit He made proclamation to spirits.
3. **Made**. Jesus communicated spirit to spirit.
4. **Proclamation**. Jesus made a proclamation spirit to spirit.
5. **Spirits**. Jesus spoke to multiple spirits at the same time.
6. **In**. Living fervently in the family of God means that Jesus spoke spirit to spirits.
7. **Prison**. We rejoice today Jesus spoke to spirits in prison.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering Jesus spoke spirit to spirits.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God understanding that Jesus has always been God and God is spirit.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God that Jesus went and spoke in spirit to spirits in prison.**

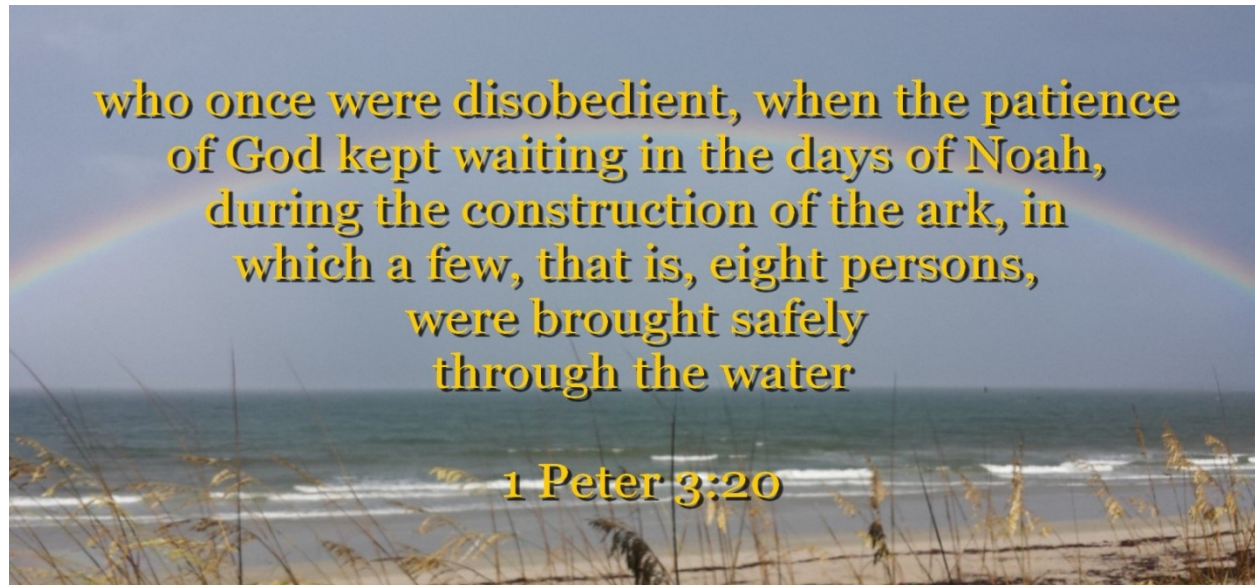
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God that we live because Jesus died in the flesh, but was made alive in the spirit. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God that Jesus spoke spirit to spirits in prison?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy

Patience Today



When were the spirits disobedient? They were disobedient in the days of Noah.

During the days of Noah, the whole earth was filled with violence and rebellion against God the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them. God kept waiting in the days of Noah, according to His great patience. Noah built the ark, according to the commandment of God. The people seeing Noah build refused to repent of their evil deeds.

The spirits that Jesus spoke to are in prison today because of their evil deeds during the time Noah. Noah worked a long time building the ark. God remained patient during that time of construction. Without the ark, no one would have been saved from the worldwide flood. Only eight persons entered the ark and were saved from the destruction of every living thing on the earth. God thoroughly cleansed the earth of the evil people had brought upon His perfect creation.

In spirit Jesus spoke to those spirits during the time Noah built the ark. God was very patient and Jesus in spirit proclaimed to them. Jesus

talked to those spirits during the time of Noah, before they were put in prison for their evil deeds.

Construction

1. **Who**. Who were the spirits Jesus proclaimed to? Jesus proclaimed in His spirit to the spirits who were disobedient during the time of Noah.

2. **Once**. The spirits in prison once were disobedient during the time of Noah.

3. **Disobedient**. They were disobedient because they did not repent of their evil and turn to God.

4. **Patience**. God exercised great patience during the time it took Noah to build the ark.

5. **Waiting**. God was waiting for Noah to finish the ark so that God could save Noah and his relatives from the total destruction of the living things on earth.

6. **Construction**. Living fervently in the family of God means while Noah built the ark, God exercised lasting patience.

7. **Eight**. We rejoice today God used the ark to bring eight people safely through the flood so that they could carry on God's family begun in Adam.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering Christ made proclamation to the spirits who were once disobedient during the time Noah.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God as we understand that those spirits are now in prison because of their evil behavior.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praising God that Jesus brought eight people safely through the flood.**

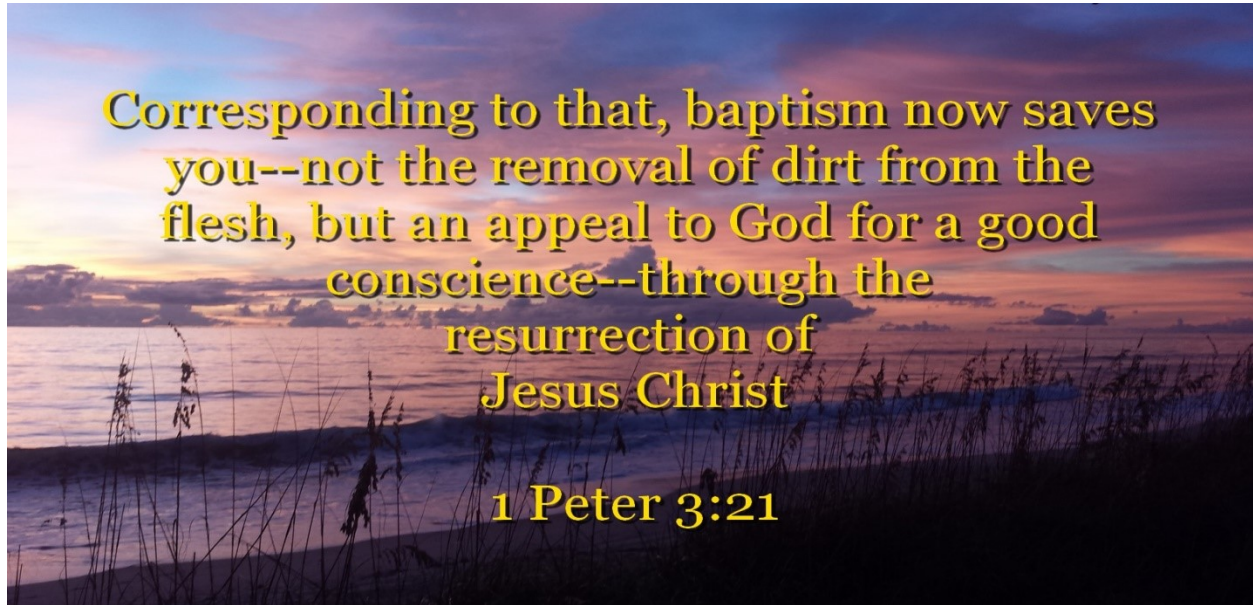
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that He brought Noah and his relatives safely through the flood. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that God wiped out the entire world with water in the past, but set a bow in the heavens to remind Himself never to do it again?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy One

Baptism Today



Does baptism save anyone? Water baptism saves no one, but an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ saves us.

Some denominations, like the Church of Christ, falsely teach that people only go to heaven if they are baptized in water. By adding the requirement of baptism, they have created a false Gospel.

Peter was not talking about baptism with water. He was not talking about the removal of dirt from the flesh. Peter likened baptism to an appeal to God for a good conscience. He then tied the good conscience to the resurrection of Christ.

Putting together Peter's words, we understand that the baptism he was talking about had to do with a good conscience before God, built upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul described the Gospel of Jesus Christ as He died for us, and He was resurrected on the third day, all according to

Scripture. Therefore, Peter was talking about having been made alive in the spirit by the power and resurrection of Christ.

Resurrection

1. **Corresponding**. What does baptism correspond to? Baptism corresponds to Noah being saved through the ark.

2. **Baptism**. Peter was not talking about baptism as the removal of dirt from the flesh.

3. **Saves**. Peter was talking about spiritual baptism, not water baptism.

4. **Dirt**. Peter never taught that baptism was required for anyone going to heaven, as if the removal of dirt from the body saved anyone.

5. **Appeal**. Peter focused upon an appeal to God for a good conscience.

6. **Conscience**. Living fervently in the family of God means that baptism can refer to appealing to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

7. **Resurrection**. We rejoice today the resurrection of Jesus Christ lies at the center of our salvation right next to His death on the cross.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that water baptism saves no one.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by understanding that baptism can refer spiritually to an appeal to God for a good conscience through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by appealing to God for a good conscience through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

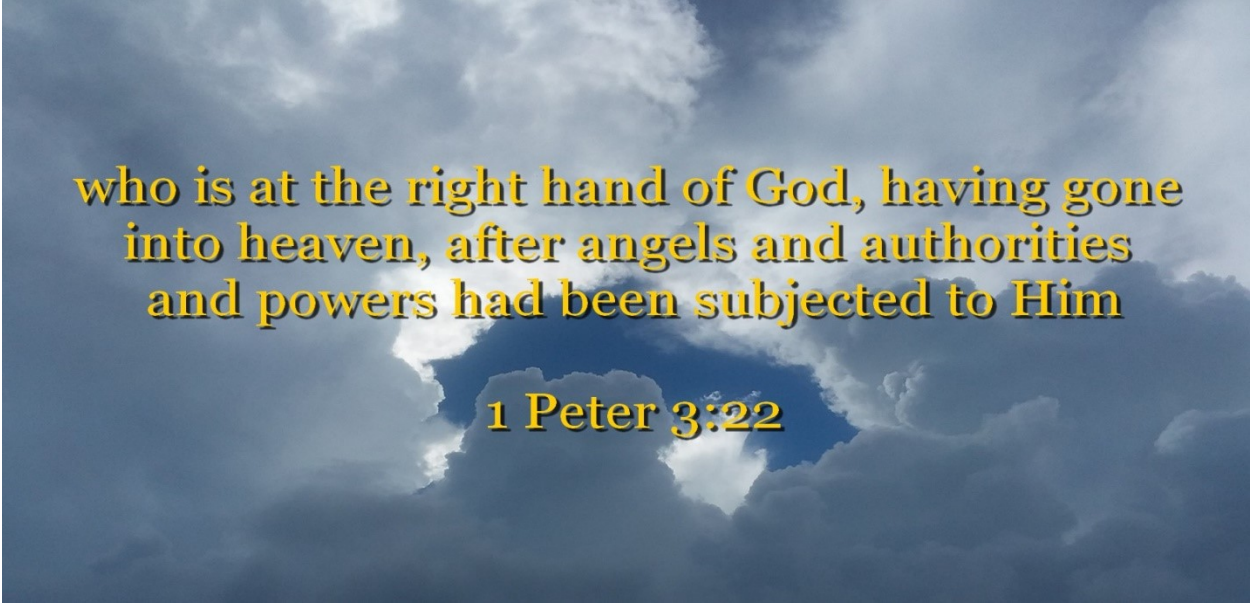
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God we have been saved by an appeal to God for good conscience. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that we have a good conscience towards God and should be conscious of our conscience every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Two

Authorities Today



who is at the right hand of God, having gone
into heaven, after angels and authorities
and powers had been subjected to Him

1 Peter 3:22

What things have been subjected to Jesus Christ? Angels and authorities and powers have been subjected to Jesus Christ.

Peter explained that Jesus right now is at the right hand of God. The right hand of God symbolizes great power, honor and authority. Jesus ascended into heaven after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

As Peter sought to strengthen and encourage the believers living as aliens in Asia Minor, he reminded them of the glory and power of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. We live together today in the family of God because our Savior, Jesus Christ, came and died on the cross for all of us so that He might purchase us with His own blood.

God the Father prepared a body for Jesus Christ, sanctified Him, and then sent Him into the world. God had planned all along that Jesus would die on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for sin. God loves the world and does not want anyone to perish. The writer of Hebrews tells us that

although all things have been subjected to Christ, we do not see them yet subjected to Christ.

Subjected

1. **Right**. Where is Jesus today? He is at the right hand of God.
2. **Gone**. Jesus is at the right hand of God, having gone to heaven after He was raised from the dead
3. **Angels**. Jesus went into heaven after angels were subjected to Him.
4. **Authorities**. Authorities were also subjected to Him.
5. **Powers**. Likewise, powers were subjected to Him.
6. **Subjected**. Living fervently in the family of God means that we remember Jesus went into heaven after angels, authorities, and powers were subjected to Him.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because angels, authorities, and powers have been subjected to Jesus after He was raised from the dead.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the subjection of angels and authorities and powers to Jesus.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that angels and authorities and powers have all been subjected to Jesus.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by understanding that although all things have been subjected to Jesus, we do not yet see all things subjected to Him.**

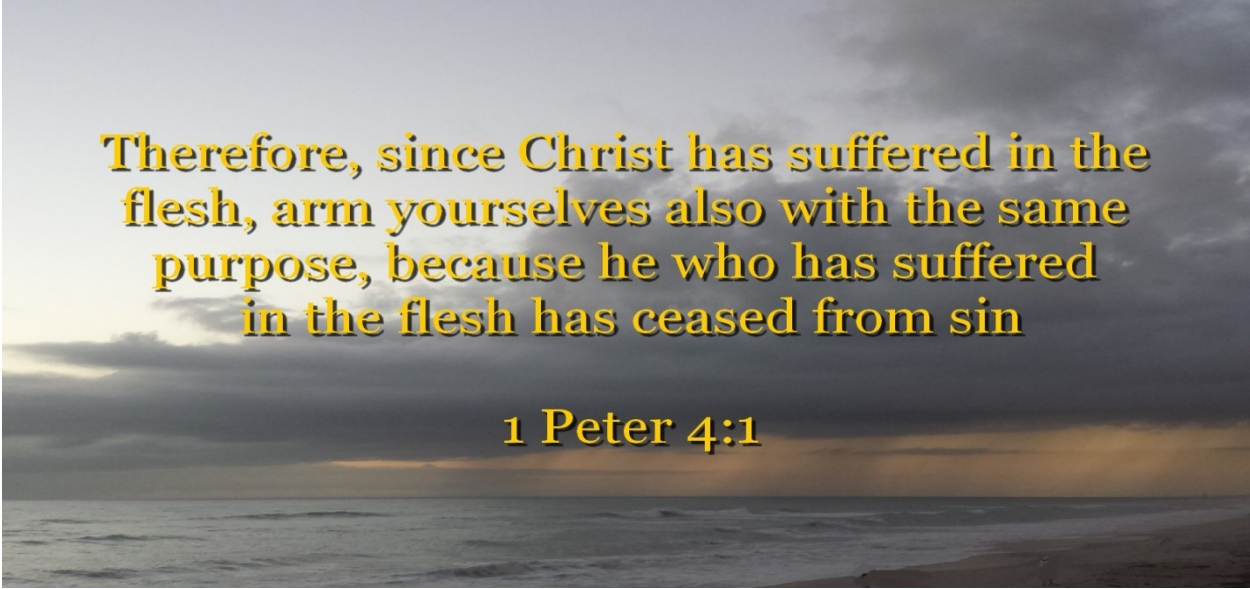
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that angels and authorities and powers have been subjected to Jesus Christ as Lord. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by trusting in the power of Jesus Christ to overcome all enemies on earth and in heaven?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Three

Suffered Today



Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin

1 Peter 4:1

Why should we arm ourselves with the same purpose that Christ had? We arm ourselves with the same purpose because he who suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.

Peter draws a conclusion from his preceding discussion about Christ making us alive to be with Him and His Father. Jesus was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that He might bring us to God.

As the saints in Asia Minor grappled with suffering in their lives, Peter explained that they must arm themselves with the purpose of Christ. Jesus did not suffer for any wrong He committed. In fact, Jesus knew no sin until He became sin for us by taking all of our sins on the cross. He paid the death penalty to satisfy God's righteousness and justice. In simplest terms, Christ died for us.

Peter spoke about believers arming themselves. He used a military term describing weapons of warfare. So, Peter was talking about taking up the weapon of having the same purpose that Christ had as He suffered for us. We suffer with the same purpose, for the sake of righteousness and fulfilling the ministry of Christ.

In the Flesh

1. **Christ**. Why did Christ suffer in the flesh? He suffered in the flesh to bring us to God for service to God.

2. **Suffered**. Christ took flesh for the purpose of suffering on the cross and died for us to atone for our sins and bring us to God.

3. **Flesh**. Jesus had real flesh like we have, but Jesus had no sin until He took our sin upon Himself at the cross.

4. **Arm**. Saints arm themselves by taking up the same purpose that Christ had and using that purpose as motivation for suffering which brings freedom from sin through His sacrifice of His flesh. Just as we have been crucified with Christ, so also we have been resurrected in Him to newness of life in service.

5. **Purpose**. Christ took flesh and died on the cross not only to pay for our sins, but also to bring us to God for service.

6. **Ceased**. Living fervently in the family of God means saints have ceased from sin because they have suffered in the flesh, meaning that we have transitioned from a fleshly life where we died with Christ in the flesh to a new life in which we have been made alive in the spirit to serve God. We are no longer slaves to sin, having been made alive in the spirit to God.

7. **Flesh**. We rejoice today because we have ceased to sin because we have suffered with Christ in the flesh through our faith in His suffering, death and resurrection so that we might be brought to God as useful servants for Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that the saints ceased from sin because of the suffering of Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God living today as people who have been brought to God for service.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation so that we have ceased from sin through identification with Christ who suffered in the flesh on the cross.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for our great salvation in Christ Jesus. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by arming yourself with the same purpose that Christ had, so that we live forever in Christ who suffered in the flesh for our sins and freed us from them for service to God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Four

Lusts of Men Today



Why do we live for the will of God? We live for the will of God because we no longer live for the lusts of men.

We arm ourselves with the same purpose that Christ had toward suffering. We suffer for the glory of God, because he who has suffered has ceased from sin. Having ceased from sin, we live in newness of life, no longer slaves of sin.

Instead of living to please ourselves and to indulge our flesh, we now live to do the will of God. In fact, Jesus suffered and died so that He could sanctify us and bring us to God.

Looked at from another angle, God purchased us with the precious blood of Jesus. He bought us and owns us for all eternity. Our reasonable service to God reflects our love for Him based upon Him loving us first and giving us Jesus. God the Father did not spare His only Son, but sent Him to die on the cross for us. The Just died for the unjust.

Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter described how we live and why we love. Jesus explained today against the background of tomorrow. Peter really wanted us to know and enjoy our lives today looking off to a bright future.

Will of God

1. **Live**. How do we live the rest of the time in the flesh? We live for the will of God.
2. **Time**. God has allotted to each of us a specific time to live in the flesh.
3. **Flesh**. At the moment of salvation, we were freed from the slavery to sin in the flesh.
4. **Lusts**. The lusts of the flesh no longer have to dominate our lives.
5. **For**. Because we have been born again, we now live for the will of God.
6. **Will**. Living fervently in the family of God means we live each day for the will of God, no longer serving the will of the flesh.
7. **God**. We rejoice today that God wants us to do His will every day.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by thanking God that we no longer have to live in the lusts of the flesh as slaves to sin.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God thanking God that we had been delivered from the slavery of sin so that we may live for the will of God every day.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to live for the will of God every day, having been freed from slavery to sin and the lusts of our flesh.**

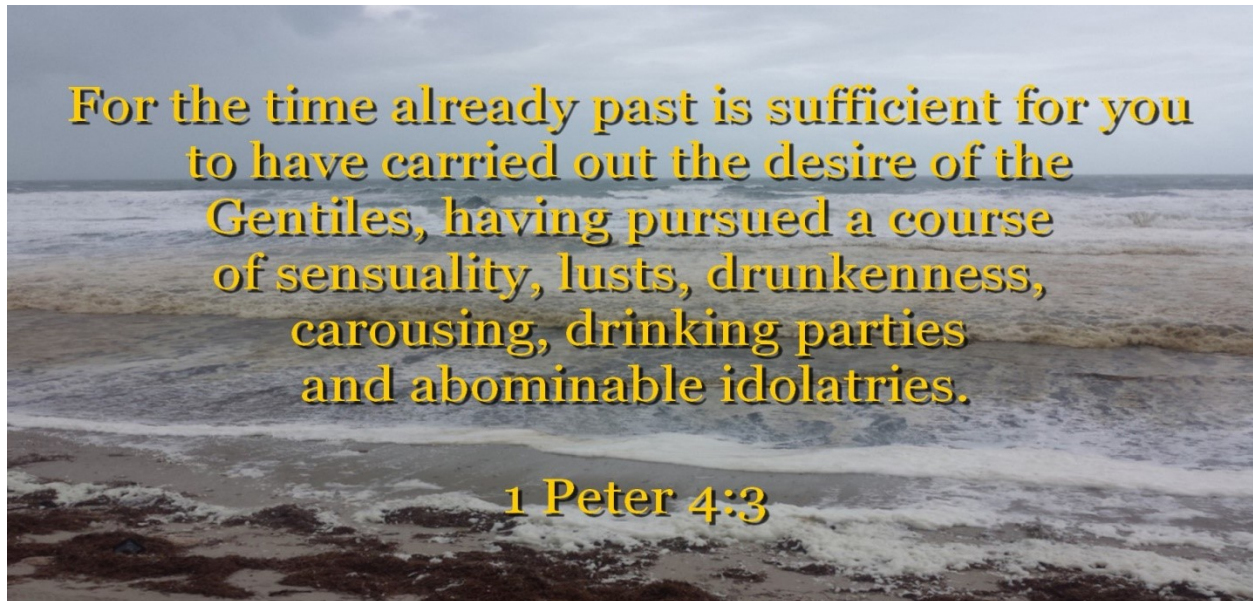
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by living each day for the will of God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God that we can do the will of God every day?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Five

Past Today



Why do we no longer live like the Gentiles? Because the time to act like a Gentile has ended.

Jesus taught us that we have acted like Gentiles long enough. At the moment of salvation, our lives changed forever and we entered a new time. Up until that moment of salvation, we lived like Gentiles. We pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. That was who we were and what we did.

Because we now live to do the will of God as the children of God, Peter declared the time has elapsed for us to act like Gentiles. Because we now arm ourselves with the same purpose of suffering and doing the will of God, we no longer have the time to act like Gentiles. God created us for good works which He prepared beforehand that we would walk in them.

Peter contrasted two things so that we could understand both of them better. Gentiles do not understand how ungodly their lives really are until they have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Peter contrasted living as

a Gentile with living with God in the family of God. Using vivid contrast, Peter often contrasted one time with another time, but Peter always focused upon living today in Christ, doing the will of God.

Sufficient

1. **Time**. What time has passed? The time to carry out the lusts of the flesh has passed for every believer.

2. **Sufficient**. Peter emphasized that sufficient time has passed to carry out the lust of the flesh and that time ended when we were born again in Christ.

3. **Carried**. Before we came to Christ as Savior, we carried out the desire of the flesh.

4. **Desire**. Before we came to Christ as Savior, we fulfilled the desire of the Gentiles.

5. **Pursued**. We pursued the lusts of the flesh.

6. **Sensuality**. Living fervently in the family of God means we no longer indulge ourselves with sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

7. **Lusts**. We rejoice today having put the lusts of the flesh to death with Christ so that we might live as slaves whom Christ brought to God to serve God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that the time has passed for us to fulfill the desires of the Gentiles.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by praising God that we no longer pursue a course of evil every day.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remember the time has passed for us to live like Gentiles.**

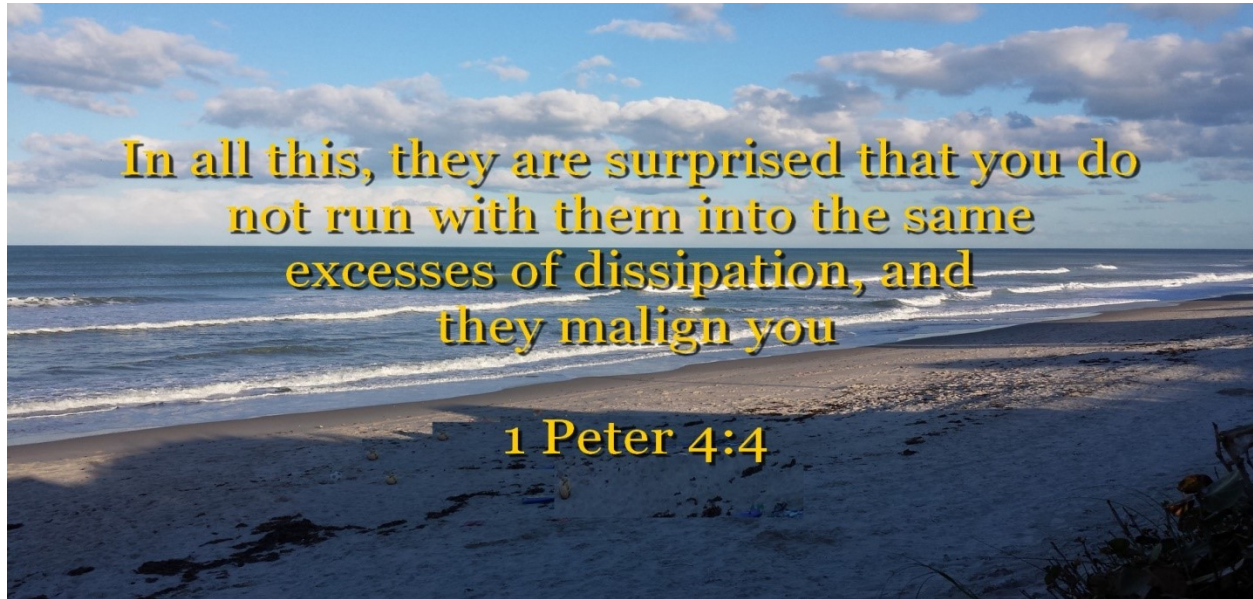
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by worshiping God for delivering us from all the evil behaviors which characterized our lives before we were saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God that we have new life in Christ and the slavery to sin in our lives has been broken once and for all by our faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Six

Surprised Today



Who maligns Christians? The Gentiles with whom you no longer participate in their evil malign you.

When Christians stop participating in the evil of Gentiles, they are surprised you no longer run with them. Specifically, they are surprised that you no longer want to engage in the same excesses of dissipation that you once did with them. Now, having been freed from slavery to sin, you want to walk with Christ.

When your old Gentile friends see you no longer running with them, they now malign you. When you no longer engage with the world and the things they love, they will hate you just like they hated Jesus before you. When you suddenly give up all the drinking and carousing and sensuality, the world notices and despises you for it. Then they say evil things about you and slander you.

Peter warned the saints that persecution comes in many forms. Some Christians feel pressure when they are maligned and feel an urge to go back

to their old ways. Peter prepared the Christians to be ready for the Gentile reaction to their salvation and new ways.

Malign

1. **They**. What surprises Gentiles? They are surprised you do not continue to act like they do.

2. **Surprised**. They are surprised you no longer go for the drunkenness, carousing, lusts, drinking parties, sensuality and abominable idolatries they love.

3. **Run**. Notice that Gentiles run to those things.

4. **Excess**. They live in excess, delighting in evil.

5. **Dissipation**. They live in dissipation, squandering their lives by ignoring the ways of God.

6. **They**. Living fervently in the family of God means we are not surprised when the Gentiles are surprised we no longer run into evil with them.

7. **Malign**. We rejoice today because God warned us that the Gentiles would malign us when we no longer participate with them in their evil deeds.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing that we no longer run with the Gentiles into evil.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by reaching out to Gentiles with the love of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another never to run again into evil with Gentiles.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God that He is delivered us from a life of dissipation and evil. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by rejoicing when the Gentiles malign us because we are no longer are like them because of the grace of God in our lives?

HALLELUJAH!

6

Fervent Love Today

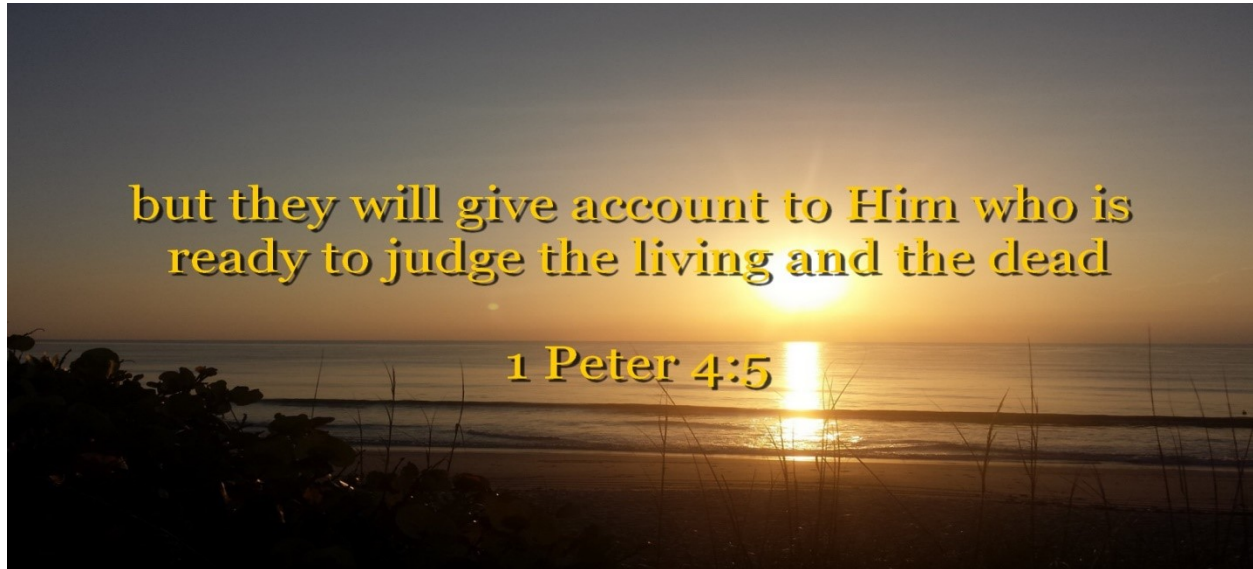
Peter turned to the future and said that the end is near. Therefore, saints must exercise sound judgment and be sober of spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, they should keep fervent in their love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Peter commanded everyone to use their spiritual gifts as a good steward of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, should speak the utterances of God. Whoever serves, should serve by the strength which God supplies. In all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Seven

Account Today



Who will judge the living and the dead? God will judge the living and the dead.

Peter revealed that God is ready to judge the living and the dead today. Therefore, all the people who malign Christians today should remember that God is ready to judge the living and the dead.

In this context of persecution, Peter explained that everyone will have to give a word about their behavior to God. God is ready to judge them on the spot. When people persecute Christians, they forget that they will stand in judgment before God.

God does not withhold all judgment until death. While it is certainly true that men will die and then face the judgment, it does not mean that they do not face any judgment while alive. When people malign Christians and persecute them, God is ready to judge them right away. Not only will they face eternal judgment after death, they face temporal judgment right now for their evil actions targeting believers. God does not sit idly by while His family endures persecution at the hands of unGodly people. Like it or

not, everyone who persecutes the church of God will render a word to God, accounting for their behavior on earth, particularly their persecution of Christians.

Judge

1. **Give**. What happens to Gentiles who malign the saints? They will give an account to God for their actions.

2. **Account**. The Gentiles will render a logos (word) regarding their actions on Earth.

3. **Him**. They will give their logos to the Judge of the living and the dead.

4. **Ready**. God stands ready right now to judge the living and the dead.

5. **Judge**. God judges with absolute righteousness, according to the standard of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

6. **Living**. Living fervently in the family of God means both the living and the dead will face judgment before God.

7. **Dead**. We rejoice today because at the moment of salvation, every saint passed out of judgment regarding salvation, and into newness of life so that we have nothing to fear regarding the judgment of God for the Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing that God saved us from the judgment regarding salvation.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God knowing that God is ready right now to judge the living and the dead.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by sharing the Scriptures with people so that they know that God is ready to judge the living and the dead.**

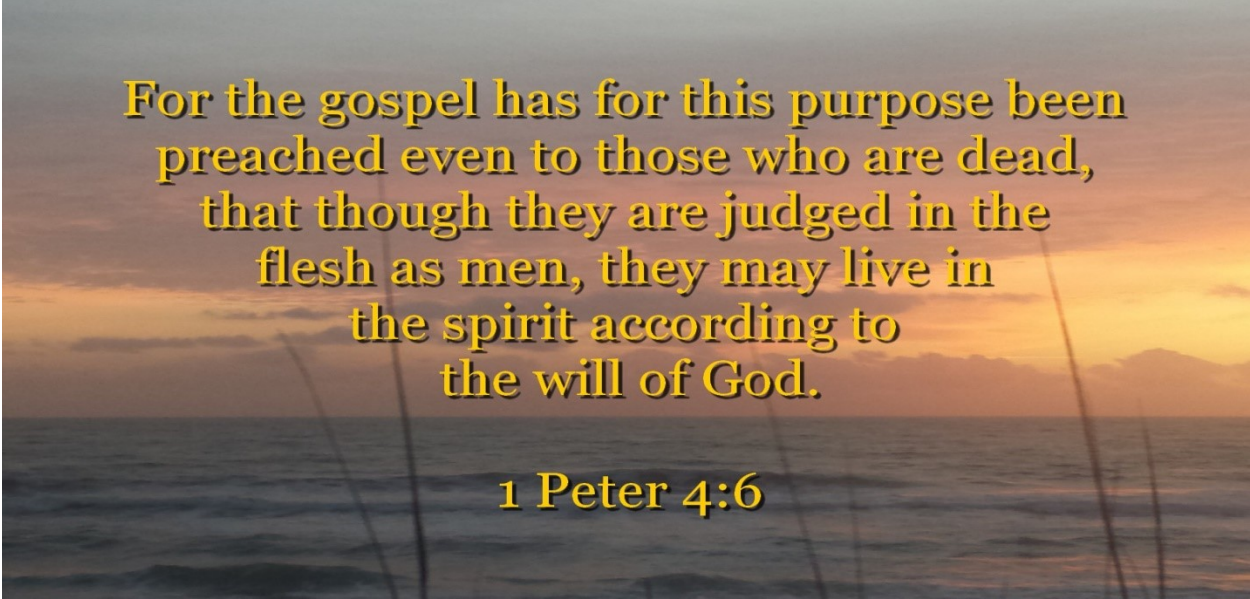
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God that He delivered us from the judgment regarding salvation. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by letting people know from the Scriptures about the judgment coming upon the living and the dead?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Eight

Gospel Today



For the gospel has for this purpose been
preached even to those who are dead,
that though they are judged in the
flesh as men, they may live in
the spirit according to
the will of God.

1 Peter 4:6

Why is the Gospel preached to dead people? The Gospel is preached to dead people because they are judged in the flesh as men, yet they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Peter talked about the future and how it affects today. Peter tied preaching the Gospel to dead people with some people living in the spirit according to the will of God. Peter explained that when the Gospel is preached to dead people, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God. Even people that are judged in the flesh may live in the spirit, according to the will of God.

Peter particularly wanted the Christians to know about the impending judgment of the wicked. God is ready right now to judge both the living and the dead. Those people who persecute Christians will not escape the judgment of God. In fact, they will render a word of accounting to God for every evil thing have done. Christians should never forget the coming judgment nor that Christians have anything to fear from any judgment.

Christians live in the spirit because someone preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them while they were facing the judgment of God.

Live

1. **Gospel**. For what purpose was the Gospel preached? The Gospel was preached so that dead men may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

2. **Purpose**. God gave the evangelists of the New Testament a purpose.

3. **Preached**. They preached purposefully to the dead.

4. **Dead**. God looks upon all people without Christ as dead spiritually.

5. **Judged**. God judges men in the flesh.

6. **Live**. Living fervently in the family of God means God makes men alive in spirit by the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Spirit**. We rejoice today because we live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing that we live in the spirit to do the will of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that we were dead and judged in the flesh but were made alive in the spirit by the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by sharing with dead people how they can be made alive in the spirit by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ so that we preach Christ with purpose.**

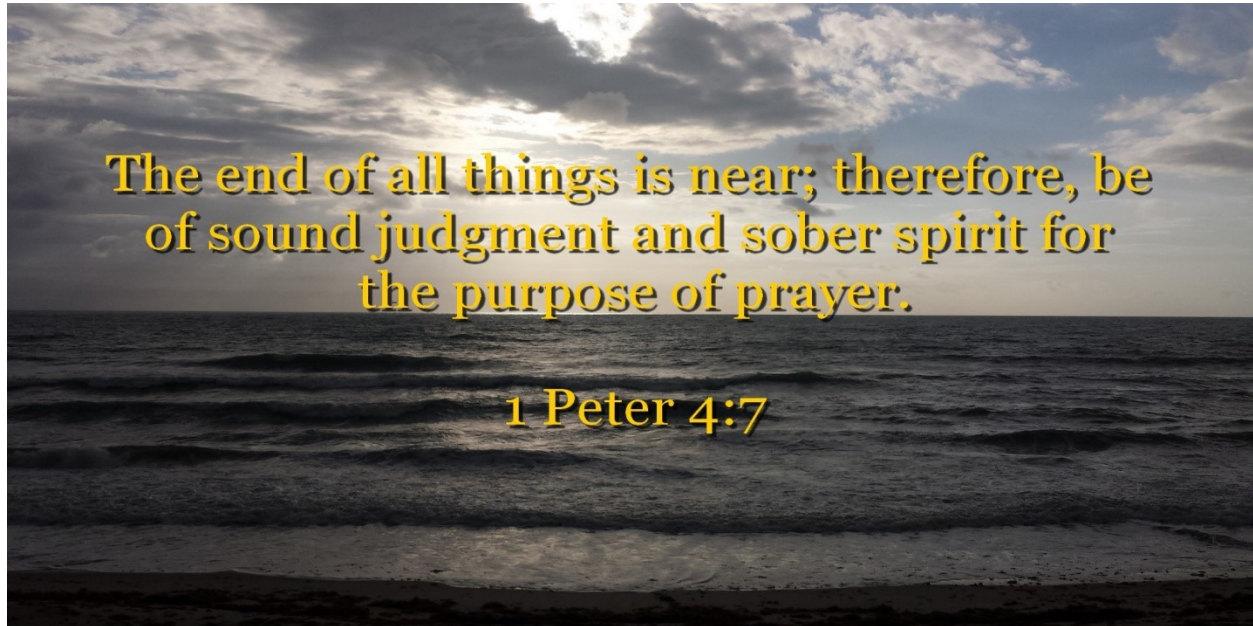
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by preaching Christ to dead people so that God may make them alive in the spirit through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by preaching Jesus with purpose today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Seventy Nine

Sound Judgment Today



Why should people be sound of judgment and sober of spirit today? They should be sober in spirit and sound in judgment today for the purpose of prayer.

Peter once again tied the future to the present. Right now, the end of all things is near. Of course, Peter said that 2000 years ago and the end remains near. The end could come at any time. When Christ returns to the clouds of earth and snatches away the believers from the face of the earth, the church age will close and the tribulation will start. God will begin to pour out His judgments upon the earth as described more fully in the book of Revelation. Unless God had shortened those days of future tribulation, no flesh would have survived.

Peter emphasized that because the end of all things is near, we should be careful how we pray today. We should be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer in the last days. The end of all things has drawn near, prompting the Christians to pray in earnest. Therefore, they

should be of sound judgment and sober spirit so that they may pray more effectively during the last days.

Prayer

1. **End**. How far away is the end of all things? The end of all things is near.
2. **All**. Peter prophesied about all things.
3. **Near**. Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter declared that the end of all things is near.
4. **Therefore**. Therefore, Peter drew a conclusion about how we must live today.
5. **Sound**. Saints must be of sound judgment.
6. **Sober**. Living fervently in the family of God means saints must be sober in spirit.
7. **Prayer**. We rejoice today as the end of all things approaches, we must be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by because the end of all things is near.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God being of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer because the end is near.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by praying with purpose today because the end is near.**

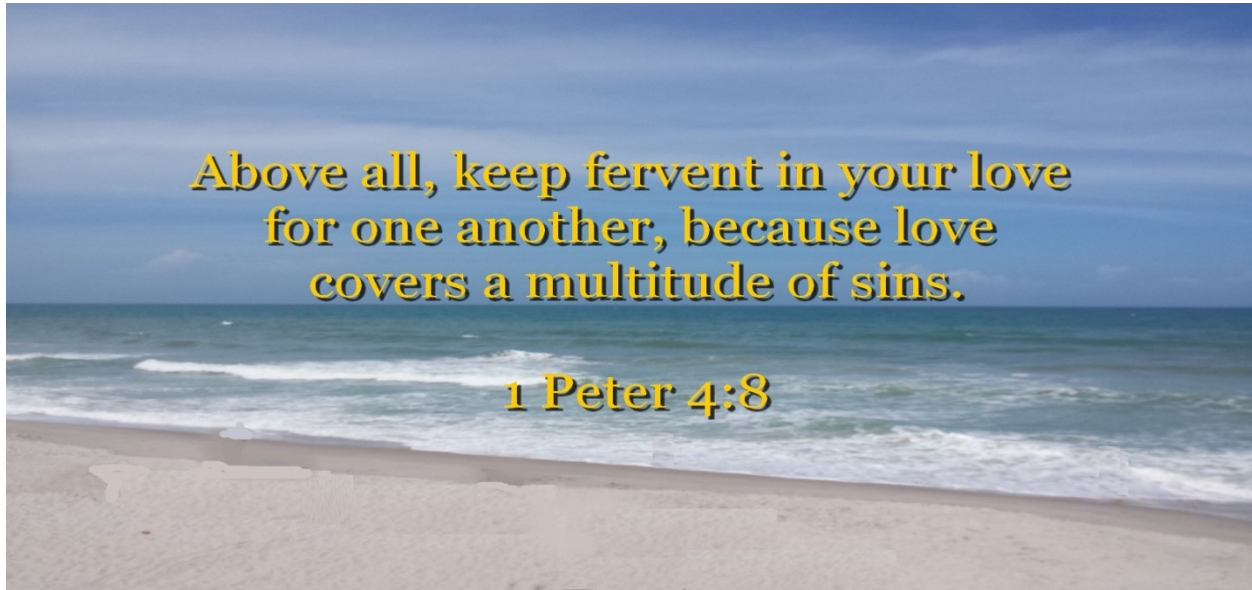
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praying with purpose today because the end is near. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by being of sound judgment and sober spirit today?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty

Fervent Today



Why should we keep fervent in our love during times of persecution? We should keep fervent in our love for one another because love covers a multitude of sins.

Peter indicated that the end is near. Peter also implied that we all face a multitude of sins of our own making and those of our friends in Christ. Our love should be fervent for all believers. The reason we should be fervent in our love for all believers is that love covers a multitude of sins.

The love of God for the world prompted God the Father to deliver His only Son to the cross so that we might live free. The death of Jesus purchased our life. As Peter spoke about the future, he always tied the future back to the present. In other words, because Christians must remember that the end is near, we should pray with purpose today and be mindful to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with dead people today. By the power of the Gospel, dead people may come to life and live according to the will of God. All of us once were dead in our trespasses and

sins, but God, being rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ by faith in Him. Because time is running out for the world, and the judgment of God is coming near, we should be careful to pray and to spread the word of the Lord today.

Love

1. **All**. What should we do above all? We should keep fervent in our love for one another.
2. **Fervent**. Fervent love covers a multitude of sins.
3. **Love**. God commands us to love one another.
4. **Another**. One another refers to one saint loving another saint.
5. **Love**. Love means we love one another like Christ loved us.
6. **Covers**. Living fervently in the family of God means fervent love covers a multitude of sins.
7. **Sins**. We rejoice today that love always covers a multitude of sins and unites believers.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by keeping our love fervent for one another.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that fervent love covers a multitude of sins.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to love one another.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that love covers a multitude of sins. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by keeping your love fervent in prayer for one another?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty One

Hospitable Today



Who should receive hospitality? Christians should display hospitality to one another.

Some Christians are quick to show hospitality to other Christians. Yet, when they show such hospitality, they murmur about it. In the Old Testament, after leaving Egypt, the children of Israel murmured frequently in the wilderness. God provided for them actively and they still murmured. Whatever God provided for them, it was not enough in their eyes. They complained and their murmuring reached God's ears. God became very angry with them and punished them for their murmuring.

Peter commanded Christians to show hospitality to one another. We show brotherly love for strangers and for Christians. Jesus was never a respecter of persons and showed partiality to no one. He loved everybody and offered eternal life to all people. Christians should have the same love for people that Jesus did, particularly for other Christians.

Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan who took care of the wounded man. While others passed by leaving the wounded man to fend for himself, the good Samaritan bandaged his wounds and took care of him and arranged for others to take care of him. The good Samaritan took care of a foreigner and a stranger. Christians should certainly find room in their hearts to take care of one another without murmuring.

Without Complaint

1. **Be**. How should Christians treat one another? They should be hospitable to one another.

2. **Hospitable**. Hospitable means to have brotherly love for strangers.

3. **To**. Christians should be known for treating strangers with brotherly love, and then showing that same brotherly love to other Christians.

4. **One**. Christians often treat other Christians very poorly and do not show hospitality to one another.

5. **Another**. The one another term refers to another of the same kind within the Christian community, meaning a fellow believer.

6. **Without**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christians should not complain when they show brotherly kindness to other believers.

7. **Complaint**. We rejoice today because God forbids Christians from any complaint or murmuring while they show brotherly kindness to other Christians.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by showing brotherly love to one another.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by showing brotherly love to one another without murmuring.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to show brotherly love to one another without murmuring.**

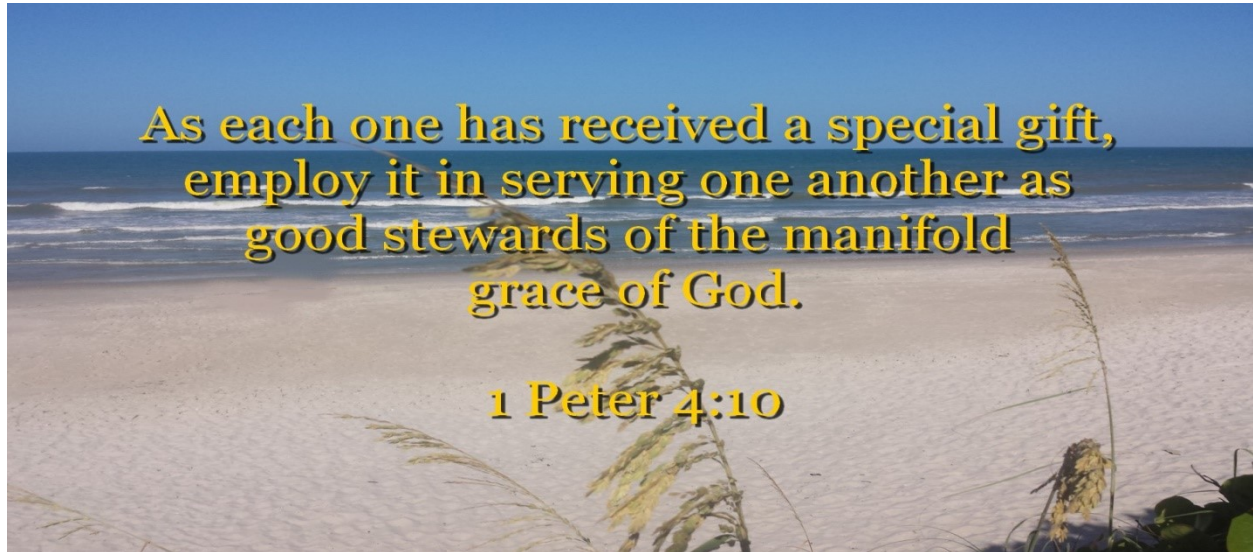
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by showing brotherly love to one another. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by showing brotherly love to other Christians without murmuring?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Two

Gift Today



What should spiritual gifts be used for? They should be used in serving one another.

Peter likened all Christians to stewards of the manifold grace of God. God called spiritual gifts a special gift of grace to each believer. God expects each Christian to exercise a spiritual gift and employ it in the service of others for the building up of the body of Christ.

Just as each believer freely received the gift of grace from God, so also they should use it to the glory of God in serving other Christians. Peter used the word for a house manager to describe the steward of God. God has entrusted the spiritual gifts to us to be used according to His directions and for His purposes. We do not own the gifts and we should not pretend that we control them. God gave us the gifts and expects us to use His power to accomplish His purposes with those gifts.

Today, many Christians ignore their spiritual gifts. They often say they have no idea what their gift is and, frankly, do not care what it is. They do not see themselves as daily ministers for Christ or stewards for God of

the gifts within them. Yet, God commands believers to use those gifts to His glory.

Stewards

1. **Each**. Each Christian has received a spiritual gift from God at the moment of salvation.

2. **Received**. Each Christian has received a ministry producing a variety of effects related to the spiritual gift the Christian received at the moment of salvation.

3. **Gift**. Each believer has received a special gift of grace from God at the moment of salvation.

4. **Serving**. God bestowed that special spiritual gift so that each Christian would use it in serving others to the glory of God and the edification of the church as deacons of God.

5. **Another**. Christians must use their spiritual gifts to build up one another in the body of Christ.

6. **Manifold**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christians serve other Christians in a variety ways, demonstrating the manifold grace of God.

7. **Grace**. We rejoice today because the grace of God empowers the gifts of God to the glory of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts as demonstrations of the manifold grace of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God serving one another using our spiritual gifts to build up other believers.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to know our spiritual gifts and use them to serve and build up the body of Christ.**

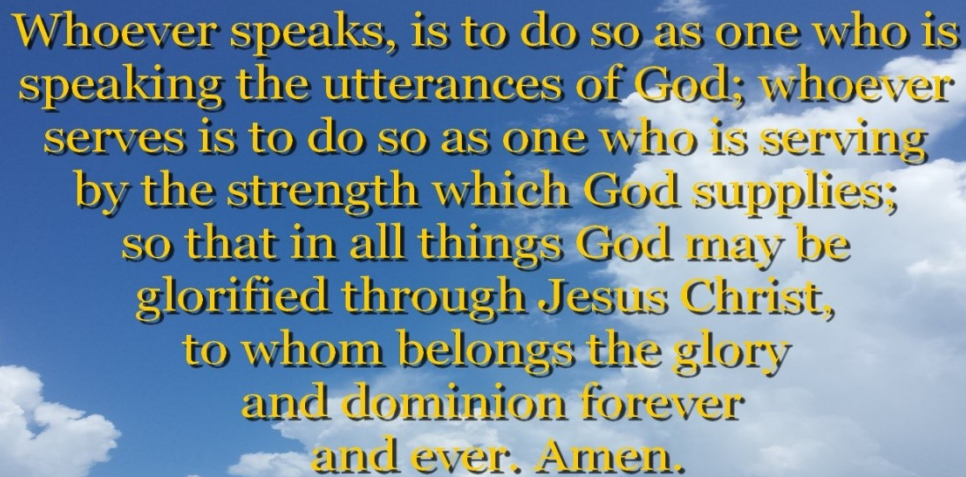
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for the spiritual gifts He has placed in the body to build up the body of Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by using your spiritual gifts to demonstrate the manifold grace of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Three

Glory Today



Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11

What are two types of spiritual gifts? Speaking gifts and serving gifts.

Peter wrote that those who have speaking gifts should speak as one who is speaking the utterances of God. Peter meant that Christians should use their speaking as if God were speaking through them. In other words, they should focus upon saying what God wants and not what they think.

Peter also talked about serving gifts. Christians with serving gifts must use them by the strength which God supplies. They serve one another to the glory of God. In order to achieve God's will using their spiritual gifts related to service, they must count upon the strength of God to achieve His goals. God gave the spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ and to glorify God.

Using spiritual gifts means that God seeks to be glorified through their use. Peter explained Jesus is glorified by believers using their service gifts with His power to meet the needs of other believers. Peter explained

that the proper use of the gifts glorifies Jesus Christ, to Whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Dominion

1. **Speaks**. How should people with speaking gifts speak? They should speak as if they are speaking the utterances of God.

2. **God**. God should be the focus in using our spiritual gifts so that we glorify Him by building up the church.

3. **Serves**. Whoever serves using their spiritual gift, must serve with the strength of God.

4. **Strength**. God provides the strength for us to use our spiritual gifts to His glory.

5. **Supplies**. God supplies not only the spiritual gift, but also the strength needed to employ that spiritual gift properly.

6. **Glorified**. Living fervently in the family of God means God uses our spiritual gifts to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ

7. **Dominion**. We rejoice today because the glory and dominion belong to the Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. Amen.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts through the strength of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God counting upon God to provide the spiritual strength we need to glorify Him in all things, especially using our spiritual gifts.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to use our spiritual gifts to the glory of God.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by counting upon God to give us the strength and wisdom to use our spiritual gifts to the glory of Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by using your spiritual gift help other people develop their spiritual gift to the glory of God?

HALLELUJAH!

7

Fiery Ordeal Today

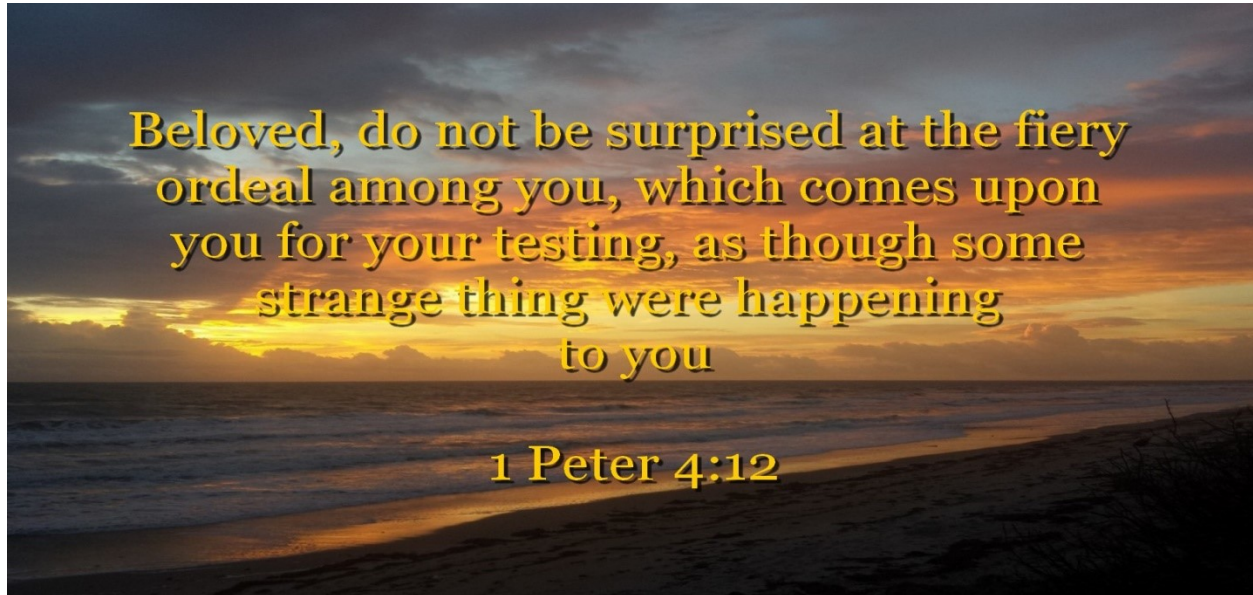
You should not be surprised by the fiery ordeal among you, because they come upon you for your testing. To the degree you share the sufferings of Christ, you must keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

Peter warned the saints not to suffer as an evildoer, but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in the Name of Christ. The time has come for judgment to begin with the household of Christ. With difficulty the righteous are saved. What will become of the Godless man and the sinner? Therefore, those who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Eighty Four

Ordeal Today



Why do Christians experience fiery ordeals? Fiery ordeals come upon Christians for their testing.

Peter addressed his readers as beloved. He expressed the deepest care for them. He was also concerned about the fiery ordeal which came upon them. Intense persecution had come their way. Peter received revelation from God that would greatly encourage the saints. Peter wanted them to know that God was testing them.

Peter explained that they should not be surprised by the fiery ordeal. Because they knew that the fiery ordeal had come upon them for the testing of their faith, they could endure it without surprise. God had told them what was happening and why it was happening. Such knowledge should provide great encouragement for them, knowing they were not being punished or abandoned by God.

Peter also informed them that they should not think that the testing of their faith meant something strange had come upon them. God tests everyone and there is nothing strange about it.

Testing

1. **Surprised**. How should Christians react to testing? They should not be surprised when they are tested.

2. **Comes**. God revealed that testing comes to all Christians through fiery ordeals.

3. **You**. It comes upon you because you are part of the family of God.

4. **Testing**. Testing means that God wants to strengthen your faith through a process He designed specifically for you.

5. **Strange**. Christians should not believe that it is strange that they should be tested.

6. **Thing**. Living fervently in the family of God means being tested does not mean that something strange is happening.

7. **Happening**. We rejoice today because God has a plan for testing Christians so that they may be strengthened by God and glorify God as they use their spiritual gifts to His glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God tests Christians through fiery ordeals so that they will grow in Him.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by understanding that our testing should never surprise us.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to expect testing.**

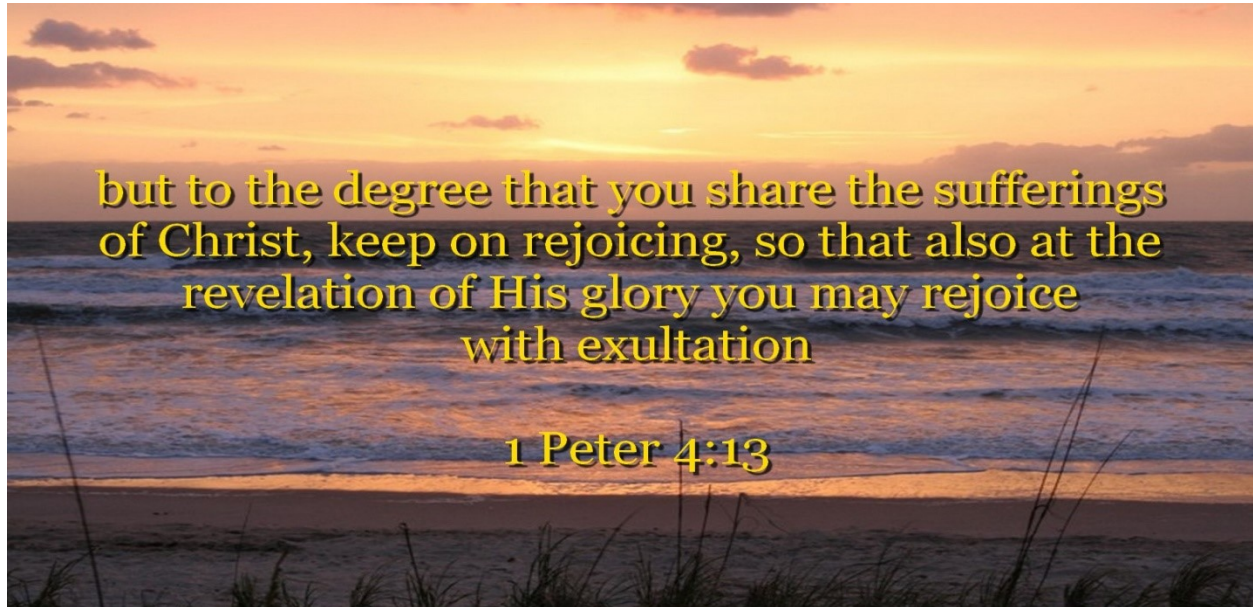
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by expecting testing to come into our lives through fiery ordeals. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by trusting God to strengthen your faith through testing?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Five

Sufferings Today



Why should the Christians keep on rejoicing? They should keep on rejoicing because they share the sufferings of Christ.

Peter explained suffering from God's point of view. Through direct revelation from God, Peter had insight into the sufferings of his beloved. Suffering comes in varying degrees, but no one suffered more than Jesus suffered for all of us. Therefore, as we suffer for His name's sake, then we share in the sufferings of Christ.

God commands us to keep on rejoicing as we experience suffering. Because we know that God is testing us, we rejoice because we share in the sufferings of Christ. Not only do we keep on rejoicing today as we suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but we also look to the future when the glory of Christ will be revealed. Then we will rejoice with exultation.

Peter consistently tied what happens today in the life of the saint with what will happen in the future. When Christ returns and He will be revealed with glory, the saints will rejoice with exultation. As they look forward to

that glorious day in the future, they keep on rejoicing today as they suffer because they share in the sufferings of Christ with glory to follow.

Rejoice

1. **Share**. How should Christians react to sufferings? They should rejoice in their sufferings for the sake of Christ.

2. **Sufferings**. The fiery ordeals among Christians cause them great sufferings.

3. **Christ**. Christians share in the sufferings of Christ. When Christians share in the sufferings of Christ, they should rejoice.

4. **Rejoicing**. Christians must keep on rejoicing through fiery ordeals because they look to the future.

5. **Revelation**. In the future the revelation of the glory of Christ will appear and He will come to earth.

6. **Glory**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christians enduring fiery ordeals today look forward to the glory of the revelation of Jesus Christ in the future.

7. **Rejoice**. We rejoice today knowing when Christ is revealed in glory, Christians will rejoice with great exultation.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing as we share in the sufferings of Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God looking forward to the day of joy and great exultation of the revelation of Jesus Christ in glory.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to look forward to the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory when we will exult greatly.**

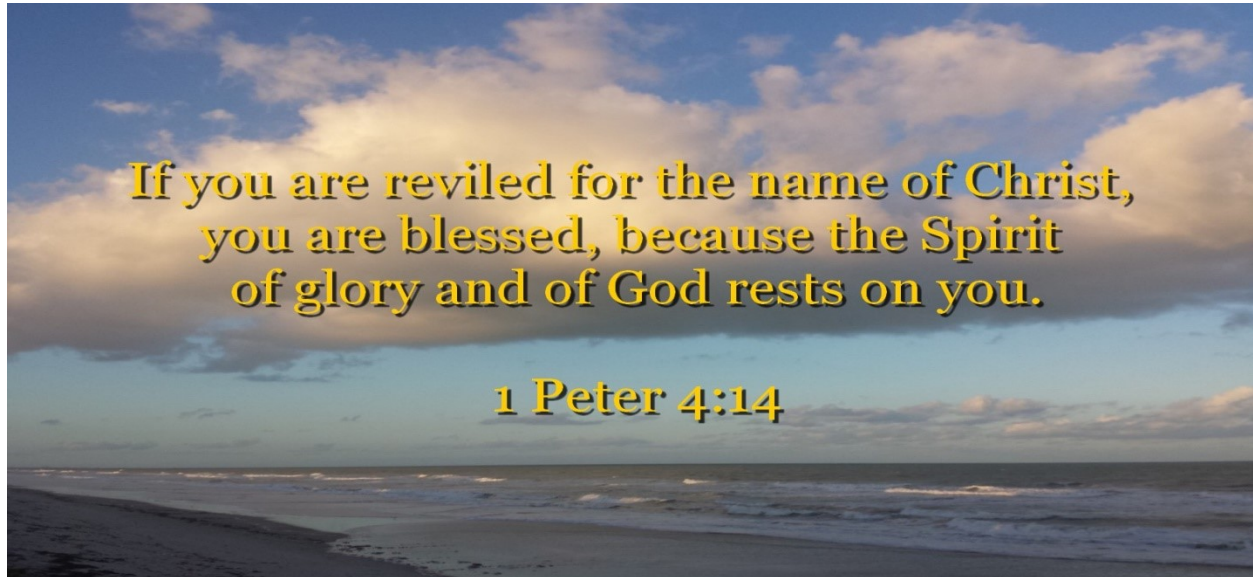
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing today as we share the sufferings of Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by looking forward to the revelation of Christ in glory when we will rejoice with great exultation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Six

Reviled Today



How should Christians deal with being reviled? They should recognize that the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon them.

Peter wanted the Christians to develop a particular way of dealing with persecution and particularly with being reviled. People revile us when they speak harsh and angry words towards us. They hate Jesus and they hate us for proclaiming Jesus to them. They hate the way we live for Christ. Their hatred spews out of their mouth and out of their hands, at times. Jesus said they hated Me without cause and warned us that they would hate us too because we are not of the world.

Peter provided encouragement for everyone going through persecution. Many people conclude that if they are persecuted for the Name of Christ, then they must have done something wrong. Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter contradicted that idea. Peter proclaimed that the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon everyone who is reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. While we might not see the spirit of God resting upon us, Peter's words assure us of that truth. God wants us to know that

He is right there with us and our lives shine for His glory when people revile us for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed

1. **Reviled**. How should Christians view being reviled? They should understand that they are blessed when reviled, meaning that people harshly criticized them.

2. **Name**. Christians are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Christ**. When Christians are reviled for their own evil acts, they are not blessed, but shame the Name of Christ.

4. **Blessed**. Christians are blessed by God when they are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Spirit**. When Christians are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of glory and of God rests on them.

6. **Glory**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christians know that the Spirit rests upon when they are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Rests**. We rejoice today because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon believers each day, especially when they are reviled.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by understanding that Christians will be reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering we are blessed when we are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by remembering that the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon us when we are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

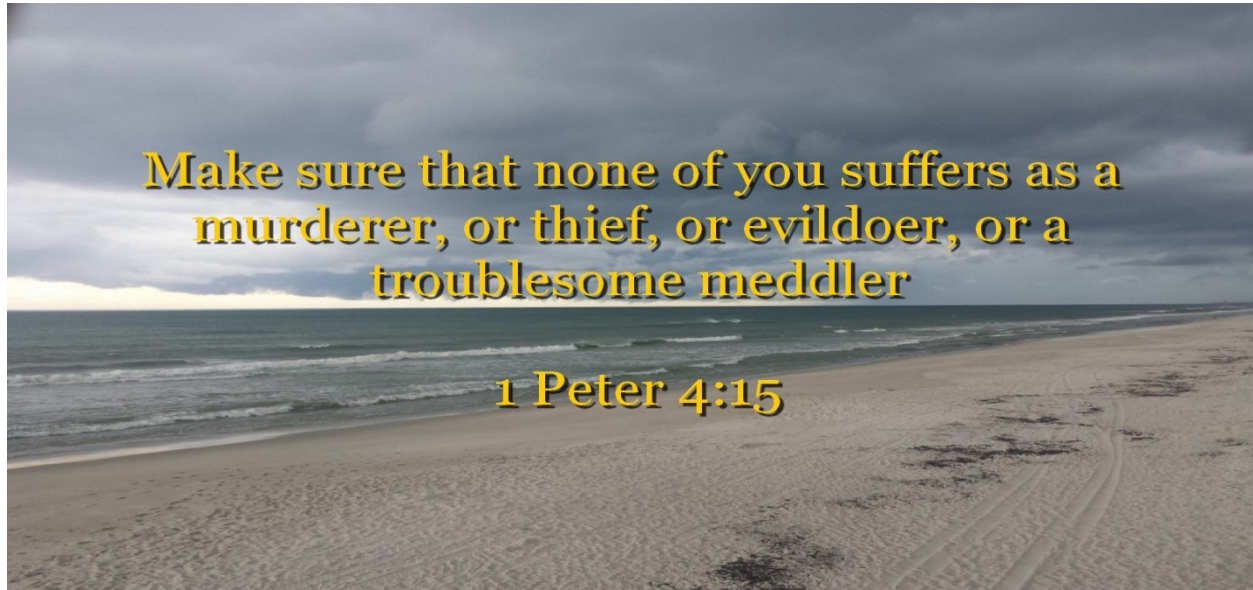
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God that we are blessed and we are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God for blessing you when you are reviled for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Seven

None Today



Does God allow Christians to suffer for their lawless deeds? God warned us not to suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler.

Peter explained the way that Christians should deal with people who reviled them. Now Peter draws a distinction with a very bright line. Believers should never suffer for being lawless or troublesome meddlers. Such behavior should not be named among Christians. Although God loves His children in the family of God, He also appointed a government to mete out punishment upon the unlawful people. Christians are certainly not immune from punishment just because they are in the family of God.

Christians should never try to take advantage of the grace of God. Paul explained that we should never sin more so that grace may abound. Paul taught very clearly that such behavior violates the plans and purposes of God. Furthermore, God remains a God of justice and the things we sow we will also reap. Our salvation will never be in jeopardy, but we may expect discipline and punishment on earth from God.

Evildoer

1. **None**. Why do Christians suffer? Some Christians suffer for doing the right thing while others suffer for doing the wrong thing.
2. **Suffers**. Peter warned Christians to make sure they do not suffer for doing the wrong thing.
3. **Murderer**. Every murderer deserves suffering.
4. **Thief**. Every thief deserves suffering.
5. **Evildoer**. Every evildoer deserves suffering.
6. **Troublesome**. Living fervently in the family of God means every troublesome person deserves suffering.
7. **Meddler**. We rejoice today because although we were troublesome meddlers, evildoers, thieves and murderers, we were sanctified by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation and became new creatures in Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by praising God that we no longer practice each day all the evil we once did before coming to Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God reminding people that evildoers of all types deserve to suffer.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by avoiding evil behavior so that we do not suffer as evildoers.**

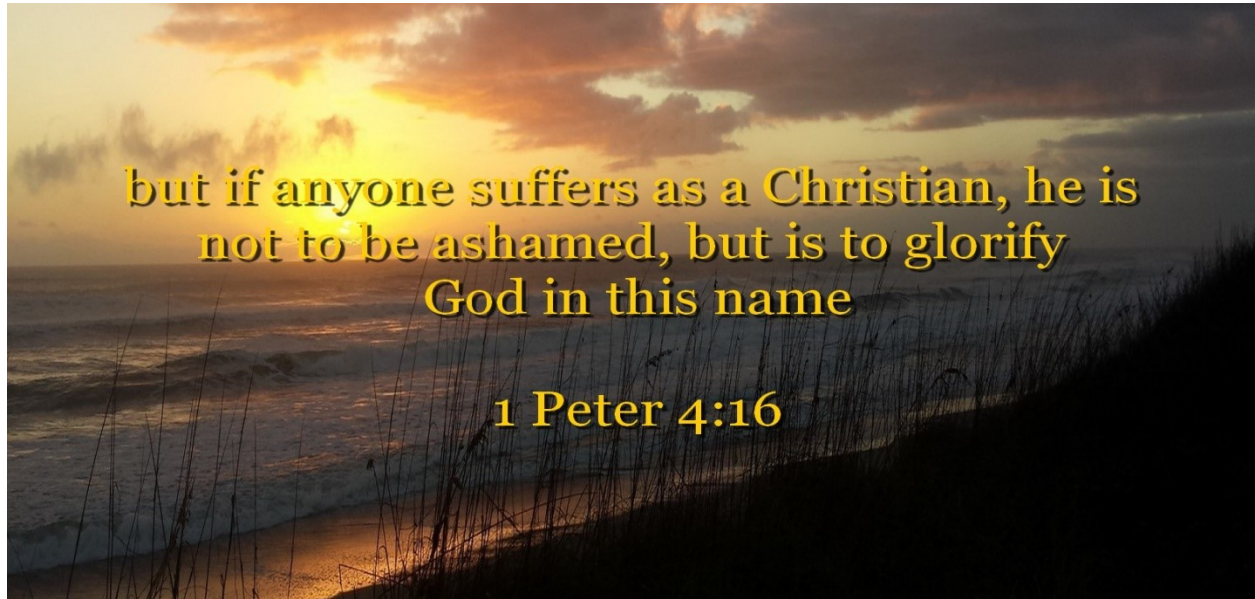
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by taking care not to engage in evil deeds so that we do not suffer for doing evil. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that God does not excuse evil behavior in Christians?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Eight

Suffers as a Christian Today



Should Christians be ashamed of suffering for the Name of Christ? Absolutely not, Peter said.

While Christians who commit crimes can expect punishment from the government, acting on God's behalf, Christians should not be ashamed of suffering for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When people look down on your suffering for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you can rest assured that God did not prompt their disdain. God calls us to suffer, just like Christ suffered in the flesh.

Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter proclaimed that every Christian who suffers for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ should glorify God. Peter provided that the Christian suffering for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is to glorify God in the Name of Jesus. Peter linked glorifying God with suffering for His Name's sake. No one should look down upon another saint suffering for the cause of Christ, but they do it all the time. When believers suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they should

hear Peter's words ringing in their ears telling them to glorify God even as they suffer for His Name.

Glorify God

1. **Christian**. Should Christians be ashamed when they suffer for Christ? God commands Christians not to be ashamed when they suffer for Christ.

2. **Not**. Although some people feel guilty when they suffer for the Name of Christ, God commands them not to feel ashamed.

3. **Ashamed**. Christians should feel ashamed when they do evil, but not when they suffer for Christ.

4. **Glorify**. Christians should glorify God when they suffer.

5. **God**. God receives glory as Christians suffer for His Name.

6. **This**. Living fervently in the family of God means when Christians suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, they should deliberately glorify God in this Name.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because God is never ashamed of us when we suffer for Christ and we should glorify God as we suffer from Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that we must glorify God as we suffer for Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by thanking God that He is not ashamed of us when we suffer for Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to glorify God when we suffer for the Name of Christ.**

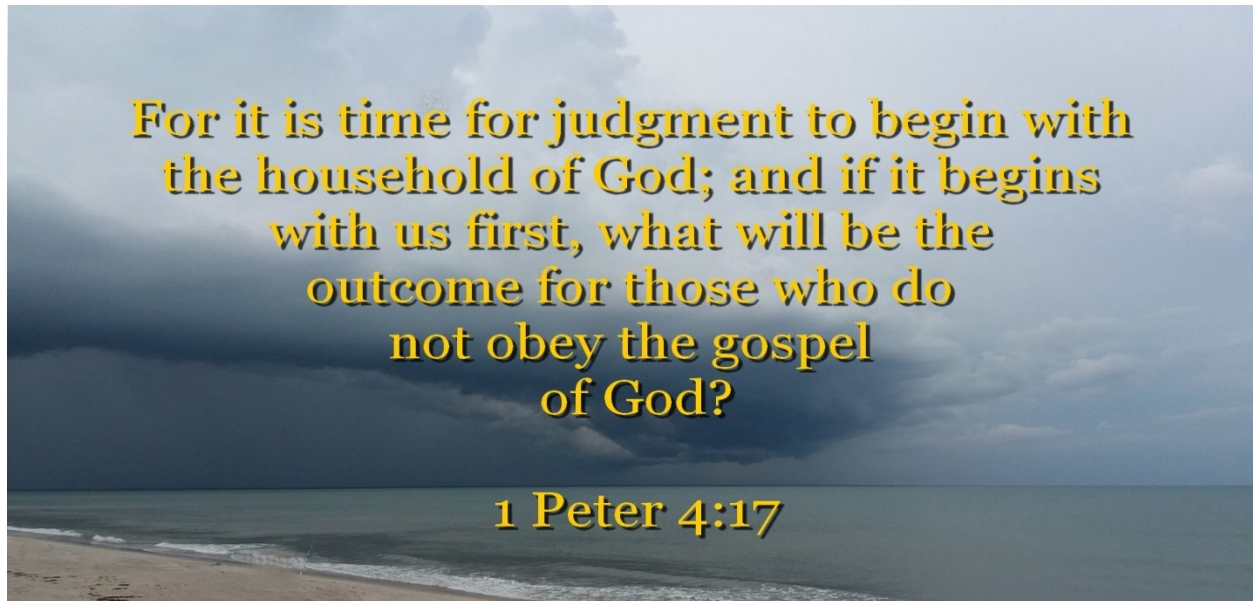
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by glorifying God we suffer for the Name of Jesus Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that we must not feel ashamed when we suffer for the Name of Christ?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Eighty Nine

Judgment Today



Does the judgment of God affect the household of God? The judgment of God begins with the household of God.

Peter wrote that it is time for the judgment of God to begin with the household of God. Peter had already explained that Christian people who commit crimes can expect judgment from God. In contrast, Peter also taught that Christians should never be ashamed when they suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the reason that Christians suffer makes all the difference.

Peter then described the consequences for those who do not obey the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because the judgment of God begins with the household of God, those people who reject the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will suffer far more serious consequences. They receive judgment in their life on earth and a far graver judgment when they face Jesus as He sits on His great white throne in the future. At that time, Jesus will sentence them to suffer in the Lake of Fire. There, they will suffer according to the

deeds they have done on earth. The Lake of Fire will be a place of torment, weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Outcome

1. **Time**. What time is it? Peter said it was time for judgment to begin with the household of God.

2. **Judgment**. Peter was not talking about judgment related to salvation.

3. **Begin**. Peter meant that judgment begins for evil works today.

4. **Household**. Even in the household of God, known as the church, both professing Christians and true Christians do evil.

5. **God**. God is light and in Him there is no evil. When Christians engage in evil deeds, God is not mocked and judges His own flock, but saints remain eternally secure in Christ and never lose their salvation.

6. **First**. Living fervently in the family of God means God judges first His own flock, but the outcome for those who do not obey the Gospel of God will suffer eternal punishment.

7. **Gospel**. We rejoice today we have received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith for salvation, but God still judges evildoers in the church to sanctify the body of Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the judgment of God that sanctifies the church.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by avoiding evil behavior that causes even Christians to suffer the judgment of God in this life.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remember the judgment of God begins first with the family of God.**

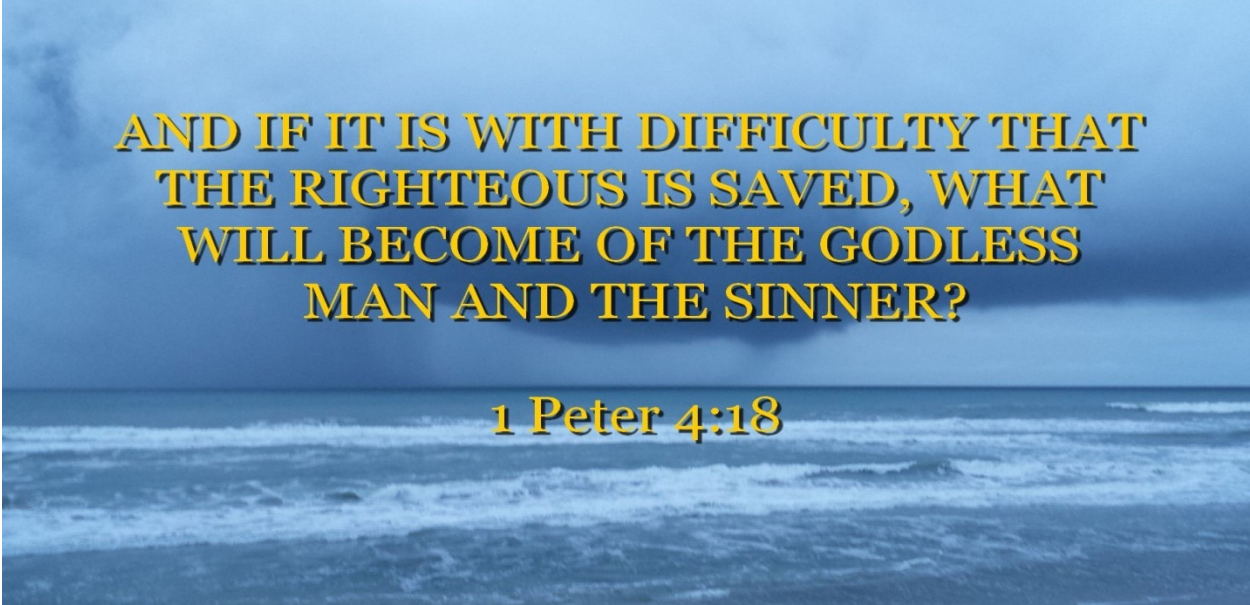
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for His righteous judgment, seasoned with grace and mercy. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that God begins judgment with the family of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety

Righteous Today



AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT
THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT
WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS
MAN AND THE SINNER?

1 Peter 4:18

What will become of the Godless man and the sinner? Peter implied that they will not be saved from eternal destruction.

Peter emphasized that the righteous are saved with difficulty. They face judgment from God during their lifetimes on earth for their evil deeds. God appointed the governments to punish the unlawful. God never gives a free pass to Christians so that they can commit whatever unlawful deeds they desire. While the grace of God forgives everything on an eternal scale, and love covers a multitude of sins, God never grants anyone a license to sin. Furthermore, sins bear consequences in our lives. Paul explained that when people partake of the Breaking of Bread in an unworthy manner, they eat and drink judgment to themselves. Some people sleep and some people are sick because they partook of the bread and the wine in an unworthy manner.

The Godless man and the sinner have everything to fear from God. Without Christ advocating for them, God will judge them and send them into the outer darkness. Because we know that sin bears consequences, we

must share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with everyone as quickly as possible. We must all become daily ministers for Christ.

Godless

1. **Difficulty**. Does salvation include difficulty? Salvation includes difficulty for the righteous.

2. **Righteous**. The righteous do evil at times and God's judgment begins with the family of God.

3. **Saved**. Once saved, always saved means that the righteous never lose their salvation.

4. **What**. If the righteous are saved with difficulty, Peter asked what will become of the Godless and sinners. He implied that they will suffer far more in this life.

5. **Become**. The unrighteous in this life face God's judgment and become even more miserable spiritually.

6. **Godless**. Living fervently in the family of God means the Godless in this life face judgment today and eternal judgment tomorrow.

7. **Sinner**. We rejoice today we were all Godless and sinners when Christ forgave us and sanctified us so that we became new creatures in Christ never to face eternal judgment of damnation, although we still face judgment in this life when we do evil.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by praising God that we are still saved even when we do evil.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering that the unbelievers face the judgment of God both in this life and for all eternity.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remember the unbelievers face the judgment of God both today and for eternity.**

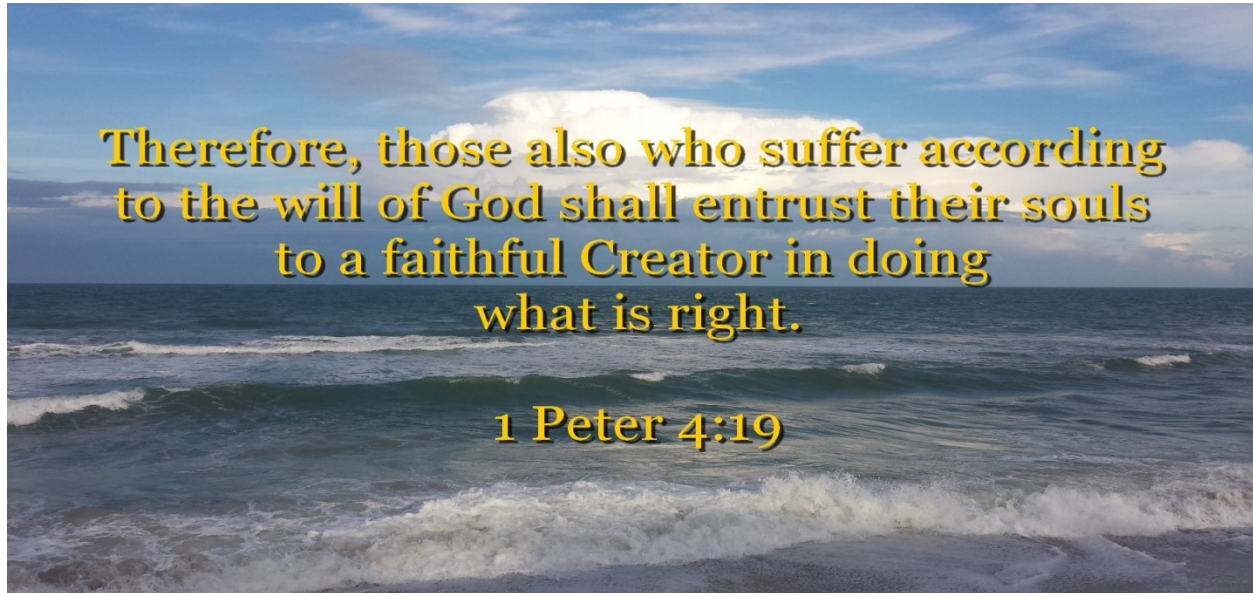
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for His holy judgment upon evil, starting with the household of God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that those unbelievers around you who do evil face the judgment of God today and for eternity?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety One

Will of God Today



What should the saints do who suffer according to the will of God? They shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Peter explained the spiritual battle of suffering. An intense conflict confronts the believer inside and outside. Their physical bodies suffer and their spiritual life comes under attack as well. Saints should never suffer for doing crimes. Some saints suffer according to the will of God for doing what is right.

When saints suffer for doing what is right, they must take spiritual action. They must not conclude that they are outside the will of God because they are suffering for the faith. Furthermore, they must not stop doing right because of the suffering. Never should suffering cause the saint to do evil. Instead of capitulating to suffering by doing evil, the saints must entrust their souls to a faithful Creator.

Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter chose the word Creator. The faithful Creator means that God not only created us, but He created everything on the planet, including the planet itself. Therefore, we trust His infinite power to keep our souls and endure suffering to the glory of God.

Right

1. **Therefore**. What conclusion did Peter draw about judgment in the household God? Peter drew the conclusion Christians should entrust their souls to God.
2. **Suffer**. Christians will certainly suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. **Will**. Christians suffer according to the will of God.
4. **Entrust**. When Christians suffer according to the will of God, they must entrust their souls to a faithful Creator.
5. **Faithful**. God will always be the faithful Creator and no one else.
6. **Creator**. Living fervently in the family of God means we entrust our souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
7. **Right**. We rejoice today that God commands us to entrust our souls to Him as we suffer for His Name's sake by continuing to do what is right.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by entrusting our souls to a faithful Creator.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God continuing to do what is right, even as we suffer according to the will of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to entrust all of our souls to a faithful Creator by continuing to do what is right.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by entrusting our souls to God and continuing to do what is right. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by entrusting your soul to a faithful Creator as you suffer according to the will of God?

HALLELUJAH!

8

Elders

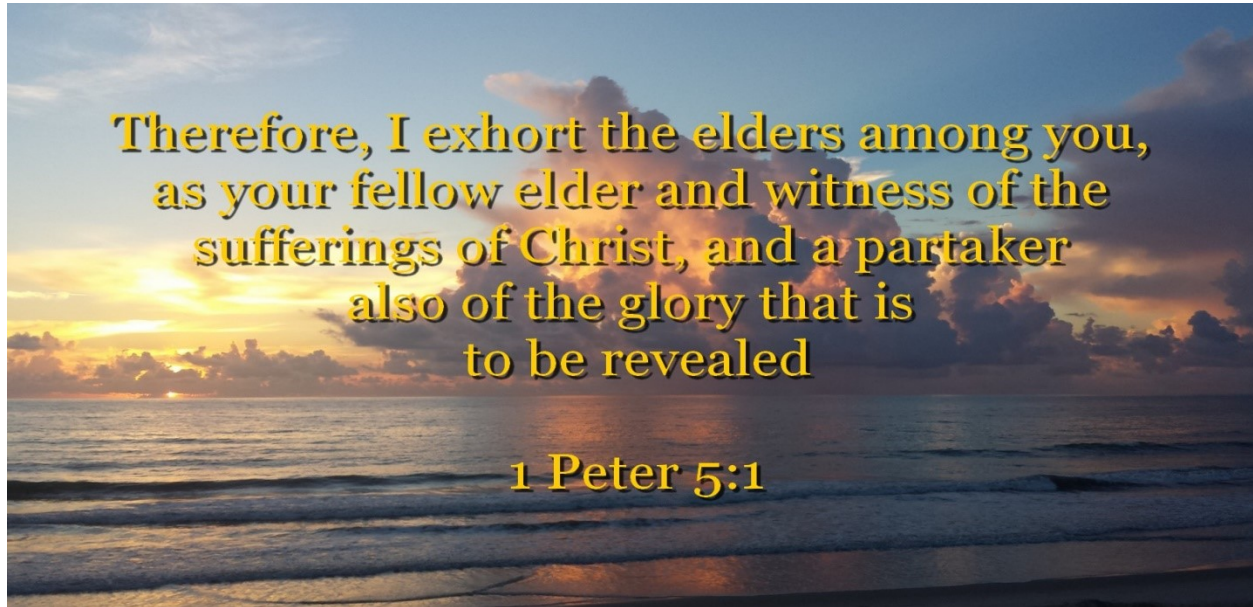
Today

Peter addressed the elders as a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed. On that basis, Peter exhorted the elders to shepherd the flock of God among them, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God. When the Chief Shepherd appears, the elders will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, the younger men should be subject to the elders and everyone should clothe themselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Ninety Two

Glory Today



On what basis does Peter exhort the elders? Peter exhorts the elders as a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ and a partaker of the glory that is to be revealed.

Peter had special standing as one of the eleven apostles handpicked by Jesus Christ. Peter certainly had his ups and downs spiritually. Yet Peter served as an elder of God and held the office of apostle. By the time Peter was writing this letter, Peter was advanced in age. He was also an elder in the Jerusalem church. Peter understood the day to day demands of being an elder serving God, having been imprisoned and beaten for his faith. He had also witnessed the murder of many Christians in Jerusalem. Peter had been nearby when Christ suffered on the cross, an eyewitness. Peter was also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed. Peter had seen Jesus shine on the mountain and witnessed His glorious acts every day.

When Peter spoke as a fellow elder, he spoke from a position of special authority given to him as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Peter was not the first pope, nor elevated among the other apostles. He was a fellow elder

and fellow partaker, not lording it over the other elders, but serving as an undershepherd of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Revealed

1. **Exhort**. Who does Peter exhort? Peter exhorts the elders.
2. **Elders**. Elders have been set in the churches of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.
3. **Witness**. Peter wrote as an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ.
4. **Sufferings**. Peter had provided key revelations for rejoicing during sufferings on earth as we share the sufferings of Christ for His Name's sake.
5. **Christ**. As an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ, Peter wrote from personal experience coupled with direct revelation from God.
6. **Partaker**. Living fervently in the family of God means we are all, like Peter, partakers of the glory that is to be revealed.
7. **Glory**. We rejoice today that glory followed the sufferings of Christ and so also glory will follow our sufferings as well because we are in Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by rejoicing in the family of God because we are partakers of the glory to be revealed.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering Peter's exhortation to the elders.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging elders to obey the exhortation from Peter writing under the inspiration of God.**

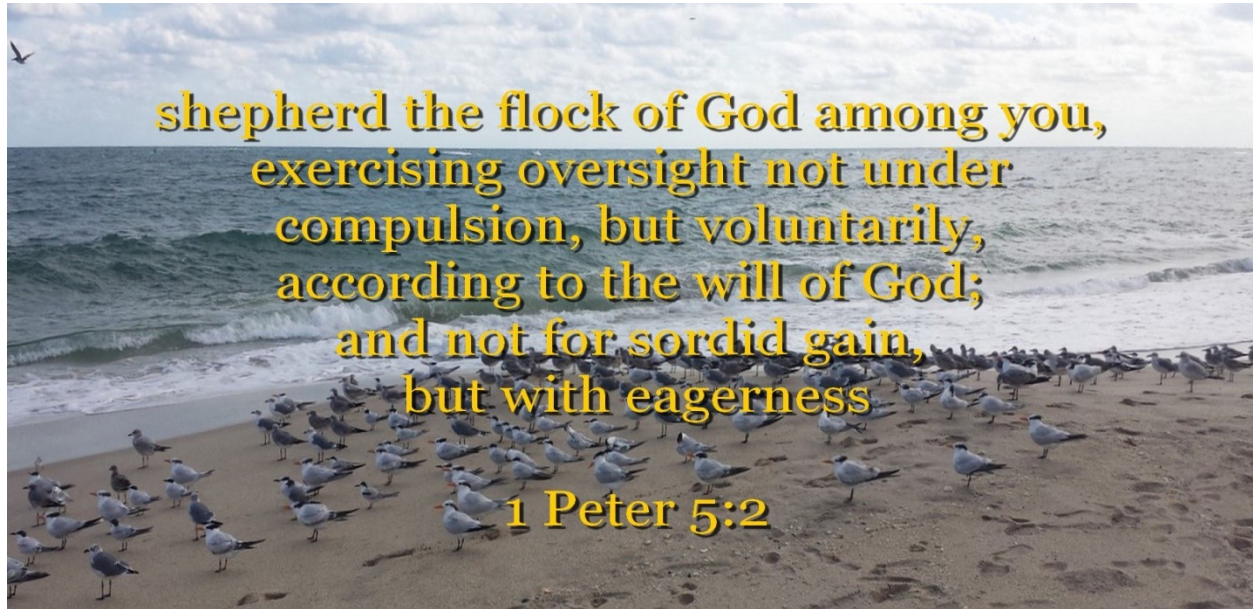
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God that we are partakers of the glory that is to be revealed. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by worshiping God because we not only partake of the sufferings of Christ, but we also partake of the glory that is to be revealed?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety Three

Shepherd Today



What must shepherds do? God commanded shepherds to exercise oversight over the flock as a shepherd of Jesus Christ.

Peter had great concern for the shepherds. Every elder must act as a shepherd of Jesus Christ. They should not carry out their duties without understanding the spiritual qualities they must possess. The work of shepherding the flock of God demands total spiritual commitment to God to do the duties faithfully. They must serve voluntarily, according to the will of God. God selects them and enables them to succeed as shepherds of the flock.

While God sets some elders to hold the church office of overseer, every elder must do the work of shepherding without compulsion. God has entrusted to them an important duty in the local assembly and they should not groan or murmur as they complete their service for Christ.

Likewise, elders must not serve for sordid gain. Today, many Christians demand payment to make disciples by charging money for access to videos, websites, schools, colleges, seminaries, books and other material designed to help Christians grow in their faith and minister more effectively. By charging fixed fees, those church leaders participate in sordid gain. Instead of charging fixed fees, they should offer all those materials for free and trust God for donations to continue the work. Instead of pursuing sordid gain, they must shepherd the flock with eagerness.

Eagerness

1. **Shepherd**. What must elders do? Elders must shepherd the flock of God.
2. **Flock**. The flock of God refers to all the believers under their care.
3. **God**. The flock always belongs to God because God purchased them with the blood of His Son.
4. **Oversight**. Shepherds exercise oversight over the flock.
5. **Voluntarily**. They must do so voluntarily, not under compulsion.
6. **Gain**. Living fervently in the family of God means elders must not pursue sordid gain.
7. **Eagerness**. We rejoice today because elders must serve eagerly, doing the will of God not under compulsion.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that elders must serve eagerly, not under compulsion.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by understanding that elders have a duty to exercise oversight over the flock.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging elders to avoid sordid gain.**

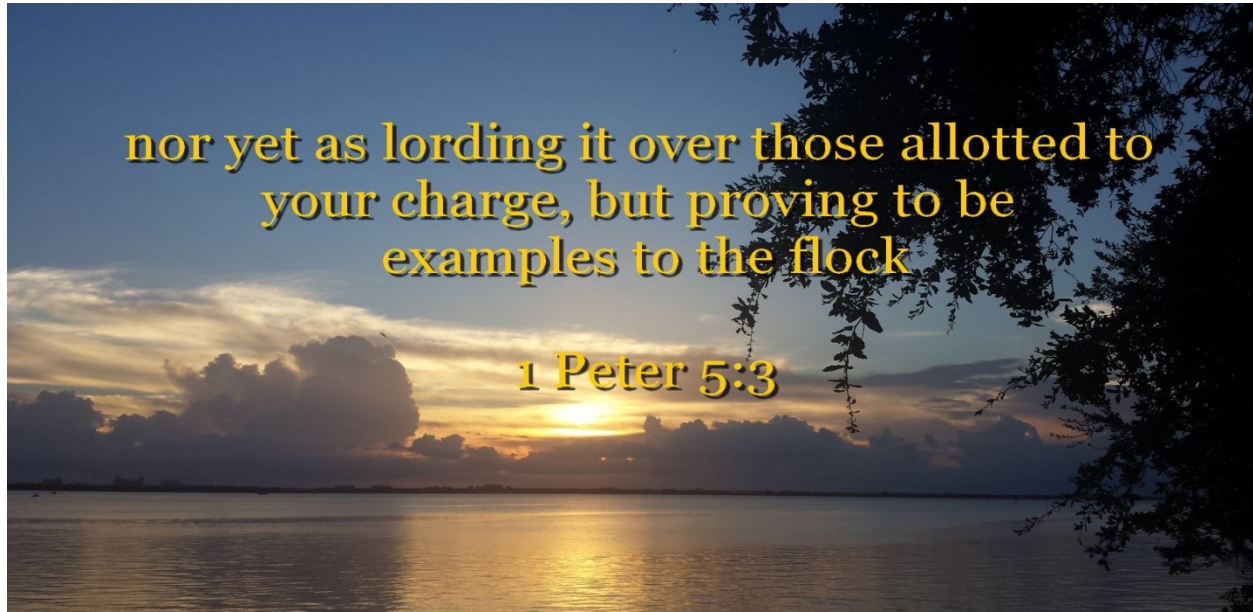
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for elders who shepherd the flock of God with eagerness and not for sordid gain. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by thanking God for elders who shepherd the flock well?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety Four

Proving Today



What should elders avoid in their service of shepherding the flock? They should avoid lording it over the flock.

God entrusts spiritual decision-making to the elders. They must decide many issues, including what to teach, how to teach, who should be silenced, who should break bread, and who should be disciplined, in addition to many other decisions. The Scriptures should be their primary guide and interpreting and applying the Scriptures should be a primary task for all elders. To do so, the elders should live in close fellowship with God and the flock.

When any elder swells with pride, and starts acting like Diotrephes, then that elder has taken the prerogatives of Jesus as his own. Just as John confronted Diotrephes with his letter, so also God will oppose every elder who lords it over the flock. Every elder serves under the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. Every sheep of the flock belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. No elder owns a single member of the flock and should never forget

that they serve as undershepherds of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Unless you abide in Him you can do nothing. You must always show yourself to be an example to the flock, because every elder is one of the flock, and in no way superior to the flock.

Examples

1. **Lording**. Should elders lord their power over the flock? Elders must never lord their power over the flock.

2. **Charge**. God allots Christians to the care of the elders.

3. **But**. Elders must not lord their power over the flock, but prove to be good examples to the flock.

4. **Examples**. Examples to the flock represent the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ righteously to the world.

5. **Being**. Being elders of the flock means they must be good examples at all times.

6. **Of**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christians must encourage their elders to be good examples to the flock every, day all day.

7. **Flock**. We rejoice today we are the flock of God as Christians that He has set elders over us.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by encouraging elders to be Godly examples to the flock.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by reminding elders not to lord their power over the flock.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to support the elders to be examples to the flock, not lording their power over the flock.**

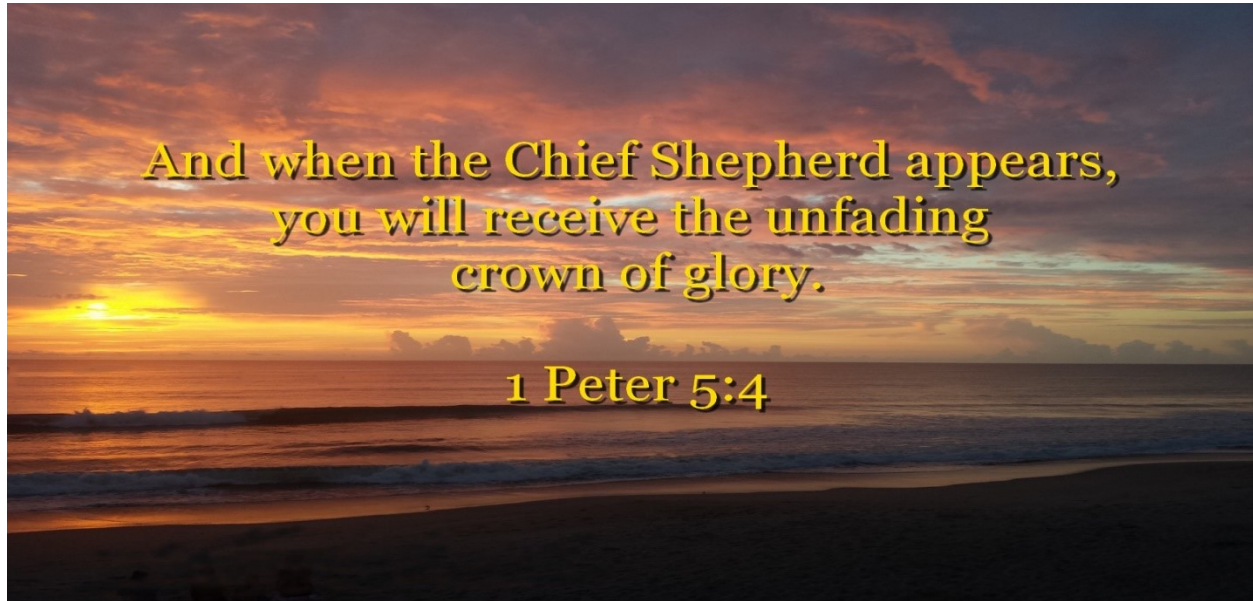
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by thanking God for elders who do not lord their power over the flock, but prove to be Godly examples to the flock. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by encouraging the elders to be Godly examples to the flock?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety Five

Chief Shepherd Today



What happens when the Chief Shepherd appears? The elders who proved to be an example to the flock will receive an unfading crown of glory.

Peter repeatedly tied the future to the present. Peter described the Chief Shepherd as returning in the future. Then he took that future return and tied it to receiving the unfading crown of glory. Then he tied both of those things to elders today being a model to the flock. In other words, because of what will happen in the future, elders should live a model life today. They should also look forward to the reward of an unfading crown of glory. They should also understand that when the Chief Shepherd appears, they have nothing to worry about because they have lived a model lifestyle today.

Peter used future rewards to motivate present behavior. Jesus will come and His reward will be with Him. We live in the glory of Jesus Christ today, but we will enjoy a far greater glory of the future in Paradise with Him.

God commanded us to live today, but setting our minds on Christ seated at the right hand of God the Father, and all heavenly things where Christ is. Our lives are hidden with Christ in God, and when He is revealed, we will be revealed with Him in glory.

Crown of Glory

1. **Chief**. Who is the Chief Shepherd? The Chief Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Shepherd**. All the elders serve the Chief Shepherd.

3. **Appears**. When the Chief Shepherd appears, the elders will receive a reward from Him.

4. **You**. As a Godly elder, God will reward you when the Lord Jesus Christ appears.

5. **Receive**. Every Godly elder will receive a special reward appropriate to his service for Christ.

6. **Unfading**. Living fervently in the family of God means Godly elders receive an unfading crown of glory.

7. **Crown**. We rejoice today when Christ appears as the Chief Shepherd, all the Godly elders will receive an unfading crown of glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by reminding Godly elders of the reward that awaits them.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God looking forward to the day when the Chief Shepherd appears.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging Godly elders that they will receive the unfading crown of glory when Christ appears.**

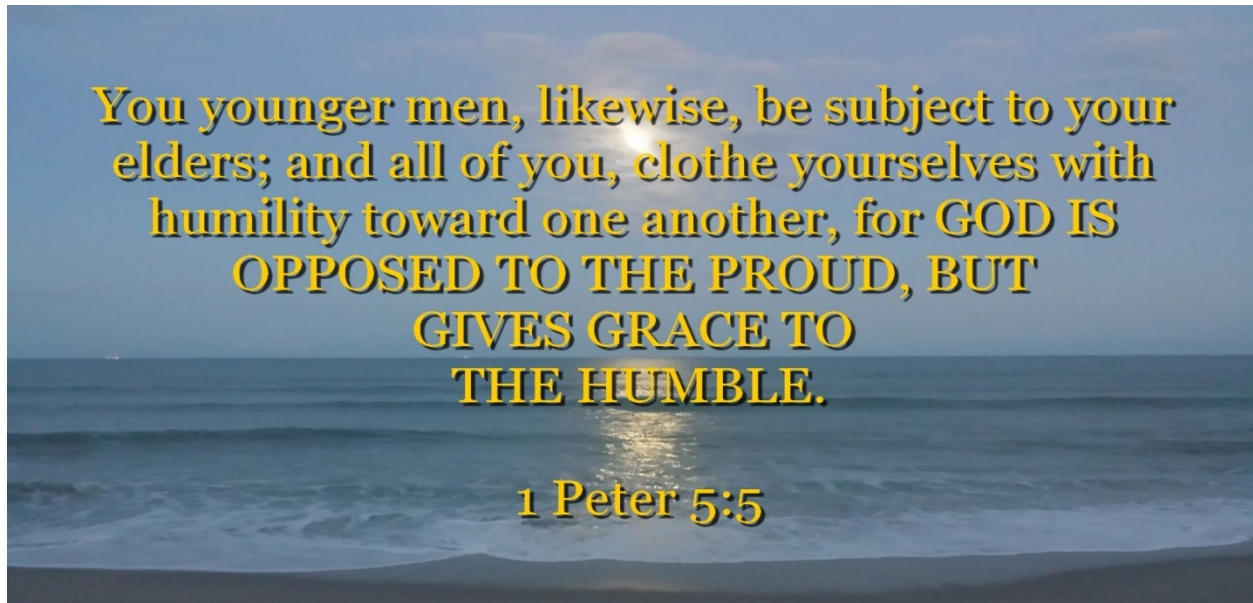
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by encouraging Godly elders to look forward to the day when Christ appears. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by reminding Godly elders of the unfading crown of glory they will receive when Christ appears?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety Six

Younger Men Today



How should younger men act? They should be subject to their elders.

When Peter contrasted younger men with the elders, he may not have been referring to any special men in the congregation, but to all older men called elders. In the New Testament, some elders were set into the church office of overseer.

All the saints must clothe themselves with humility toward one another. God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, all saints should stay away from pride, but embrace humility. God gives grace to the humble, the lowly, and the meek.

Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross. All the fullness of deity dwelt within Him, but He still subjected Himself to doing the will of God the Father every day, all day. Filled with glory and infinite power, Jesus, as God in the flesh, did not quench a smoldering wick. He did

not call upon six legions of angels to rescue Him from death. At all times, Jesus personified Godly humility before all men. Jesus set the example of humility and submission to the will of God for all of us.

Humble

1. **You**. What did God say to the younger men? God commanded them to be subject to the elders.

2. **Younger**. By selecting the younger men, God contrasted younger men with older men, including the elders. Therefore, this passage may not be referring to men appointed to the office of overseer, but to older men in general, known as elders.

3. **Subject**. Writing under the inspiration of God, Peter indicated that all younger men should be subject to the older men, just as Christ was subject to His Father by doing the will of His Father.

4. **Elders**. Elders should receive double honor when they teach and preach well. Yet, everyone should submit to the elders in the Lord.

5. **Humility**. All the saints should clothe themselves with humility toward one another. No one should lord anything over anyone else.

6. **Proud**. Living fervently in the family of God means God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

7. **Grace**. We rejoice today because God gives grace to the humble, enabling us to use our spiritual gifts and cover a multitude of sins with love.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by humbling ourselves before God so that He gives us the grace we need to fulfill our daily ministries.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to humble ourselves before God and live in humility towards one another.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by delighting in humility towards one another. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by humbling yourself towards others today?

HALLELUJAH!

9

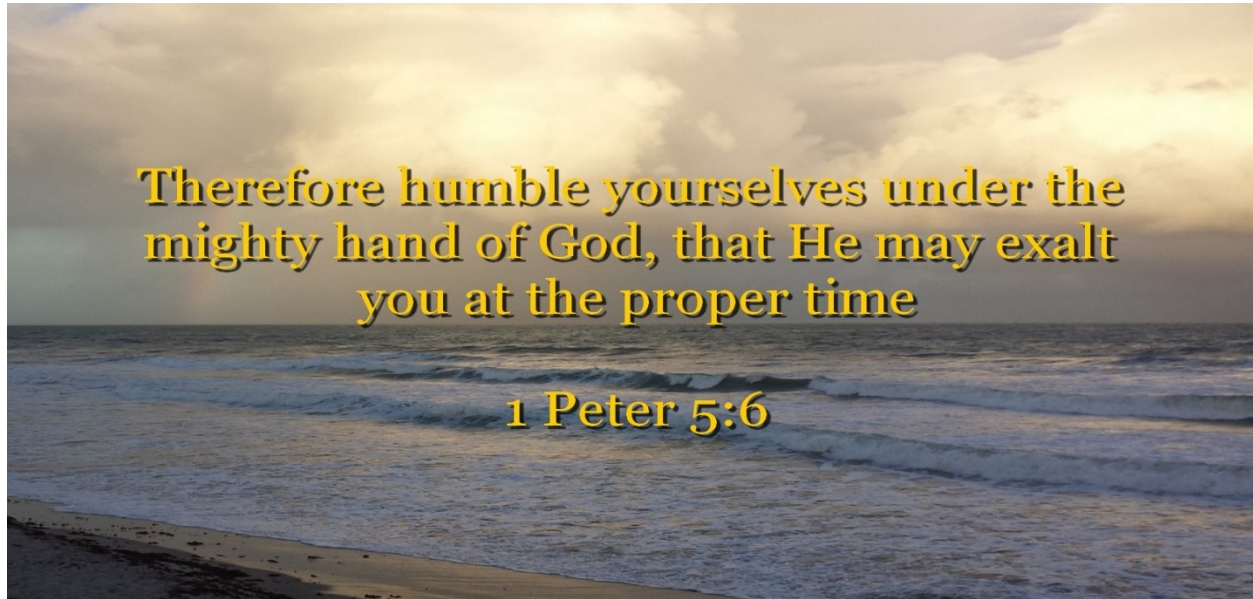
Humble Today

Saints must humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt them at the proper time. As saints humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, they must continually cast all their anxieties on God, because He cares for them. They must be sober and alert. The devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Saints resist him, firm in their faith, knowing that the brethren all over the world experience the same suffering. After suffering for a little while, the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be power forever and ever. Amen.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Ninety Seven

Humble Yourselves Today



Because God opposes the proud, how should the saints humble themselves? They should humble themselves under the mighty hand of God.

Peter drew a conclusion from the need for humility in all saints. Peter used the word “Therefore” to draw the conclusion that all saints should humble themselves under the mighty hand of God. Throughout the Old Testament, the hand of God symbolized the power and safety of God. Those in the hand of God and doing the will of God were safe. Those people who opposed God would feel the hand of God upon them to protect His family and put down rebellion.

As saints humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, God promised to exalt them at the right time. God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. The humble find themselves under the mighty hand of God. Because God has infinite might, His power and protection afforded by His hand have no equal. Therefore, as we humble ourselves under the

mighty hand of God, no one can touch us there without God's permission. While God may allow the saints to suffer, He never tempts them beyond what they are able to endure. With each temptation, God is faithful to provide a way of escape. Humbled under the mighty hand of God, believers find refuge and peace.

Exalt

1. **Therefore**. Knowing that God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble, what should we do?
2. **Humble**. We should humble ourselves before God.
3. **Mighty**. In fact, we should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.
4. **God**. God often describes His hand as a place of refuge and His strength.
5. **Exalt**. God will exalt the humble, just as He opposes the proud.
6. **Proper**. Living fervently in the family of God means we know God will exalt those who humble themselves under His mighty hand at the proper time.
7. **Time**. We rejoice today because God holds all time in His mighty hand and exalts the right person humbled under His is hand at just the right time.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God counting upon God to exalt us at the proper time after we have humbled ourselves under the mighty hand of God.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remain humbled under the mighty hand of God after God has exalted us.**

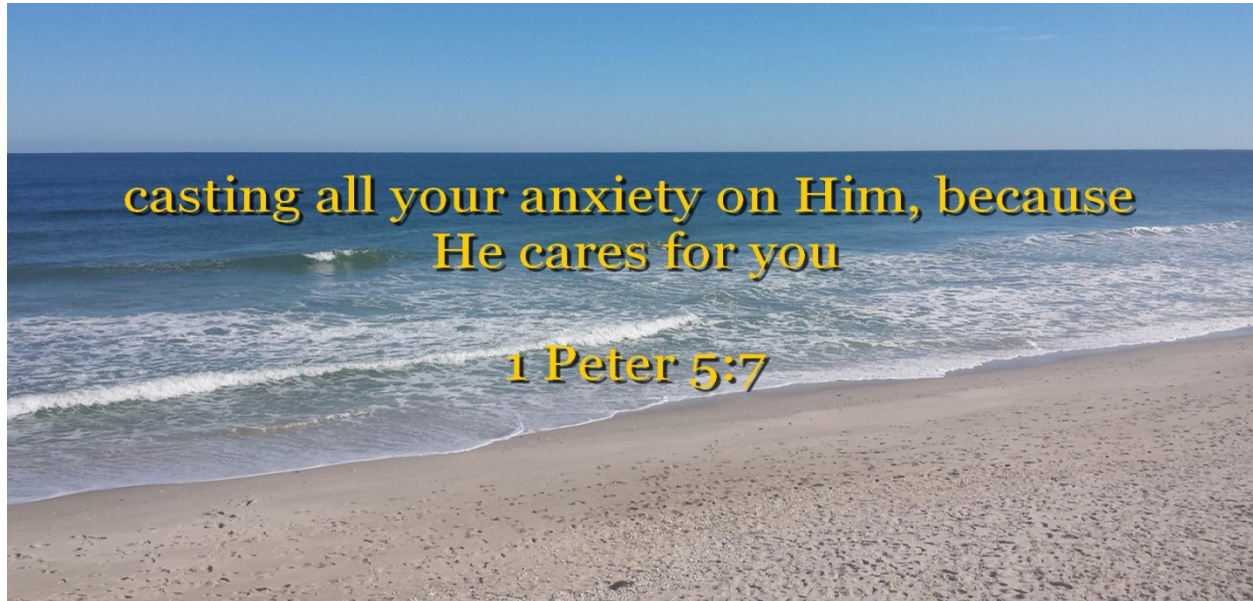
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt us at the proper time. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, even after God has exalted you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety Eight

Casting Today



What does Jesus command us to do with our anxiety? He commands us to cast our anxiety on Him.

Jesus understands that things cause us anxiety. Our anxiety can arise within us because we worry about ourselves and our bodies and our lives. Our anxiety can also arise external to us as we worry about others and their bodies and their lives. Jesus fully comprehends anxiety. You may recall that Jesus commanded us to be anxious for nothing. Jesus would have been hypocritical for commanding us to be anxious for nothing, if He were anxious in Himself about anything.

Being anxious about things reflects our pride. Rather than casting all our anxiety upon Jesus, we tend to hang on to it fiercely and nourish it every day. Many people hate it when other people dump their problems and worries on them. Jesus commands us to dump all our problems and worries on Him. When people fall into a dumping syndrome with their friends by dumping all their problems on them routinely, relationships tend to fail quickly. In contrast, Jesus said our relationship with Him grows better as

we cast all our anxiety upon Him. Jesus commanded us to cast our anxiety upon Him because He cares for us. Jesus loves us and gave His life for us on the cross. So, when Jesus tells us that He cares for us, and we should cast our anxiety upon Him because He cares for us, we should do so promptly. To do otherwise reflects our pride and rebellion that we should worry about our anxieties and ignore His commandment and His love.

Anxiety

1. **Casting**. What should we do continually under the mighty hand of God? We should be casting continually all anxiety on Him.
2. **All**. God wants all our anxiety on Him, not just some of it, and He wants it now.
3. **Anxiety**. God understands our anxiety, but wants it for Himself.
4. **Him**. God commands us to continually cast our anxiety on Him.
5. **Because**. God wants us to cast our anxiety on Him continually, because He cares for us.
6. **Cares**. Living fervently in the family of God means God cares for us and He never wants us to keep our anxiety for ourselves.
7. **You**. We rejoice today that God commands us to cast all our anxiety on Him as we humble ourselves under His mighty hand, because He cares for us.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by praising God that He cares for us.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by casting all our anxiety on Him as we live humbled under His mighty hand.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to cast all our anxiety upon God, because He cares for us.**

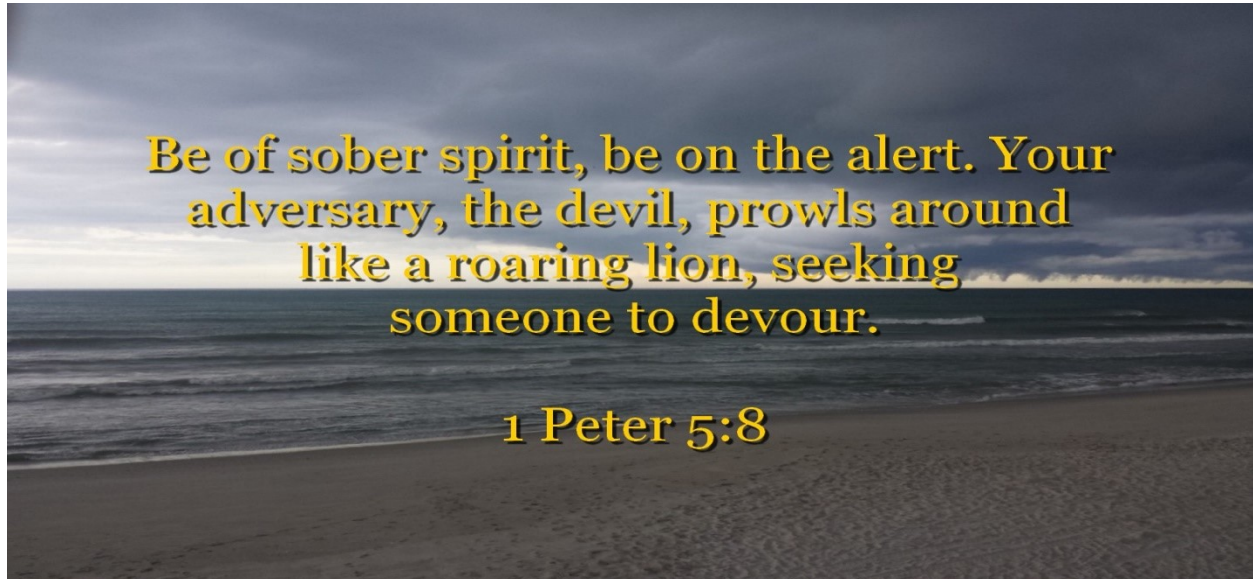
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by casting all our anxiety on God, because He cares for us. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by humbling yourself under the mighty hand of God and casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day Ninety Nine

Adversary Today



Why should saints be sober and alert? Because the devil prowls around like a roaring lion.

The devil acts like a roaring lion, prowling about, seeking someone to devour. He is always hungry, angry and cranky. The devil hates Christians and wants to eat them for breakfast, lunch and dinner. He likes snacking on Christians too. We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, because the devil prowls about, seeking to devour us.

Pride gives the devil an opportunity to bite us. Our anxiety opens the door to him devouring us. We protect ourselves from the prowling lion by humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

Lions often hunt by ambush and stealth, sneaking up quietly on their prey. When their prey is sober and alert, they are far more likely to survive the attack by fleeing to safety. As saints, we put on the full armor of God and stand firm against the devil by the power of God at work in our lives. Even so, Jesus as the Good Shepherd always stands between us and the

devil. The devil holds people in slavery to sin by the fear of death. At salvation Jesus breaks the power of the devil and frees us from the fear of death. God breaks the bonds of slavery to sin and makes us slaves of righteousness to serve Him for all eternity. We must stay sober and alert to avoid being devoured by the devil.

Devour

1. **Sober**. How do we face our adversary, the devil? We must be sober and alert.
2. **Alert**. Sober means we have our spiritual wits about us and we are alert, meaning we have our spiritual senses up and attuned.
3. **Adversary**. Our adversary constantly looks for Christians to devour.
4. **Devil**. The devil remains our adversary at all times.
5. **Prowls**. The devil prowls about, looking for Christians to devour.
6. **Lion**. Living fervently in the family of God means Christians stay alert and sober, knowing the devil prowls about, ready to devour them.
7. **Devour**. We rejoice today as we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and by counting upon His protection, knowing that the devil seeks to devour all Christians.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remaining sober and alert every day, all day.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and remaining sober and alert.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remain sober and alert, knowing our adversary, the devil, prowls about seeking to devour Christians.**

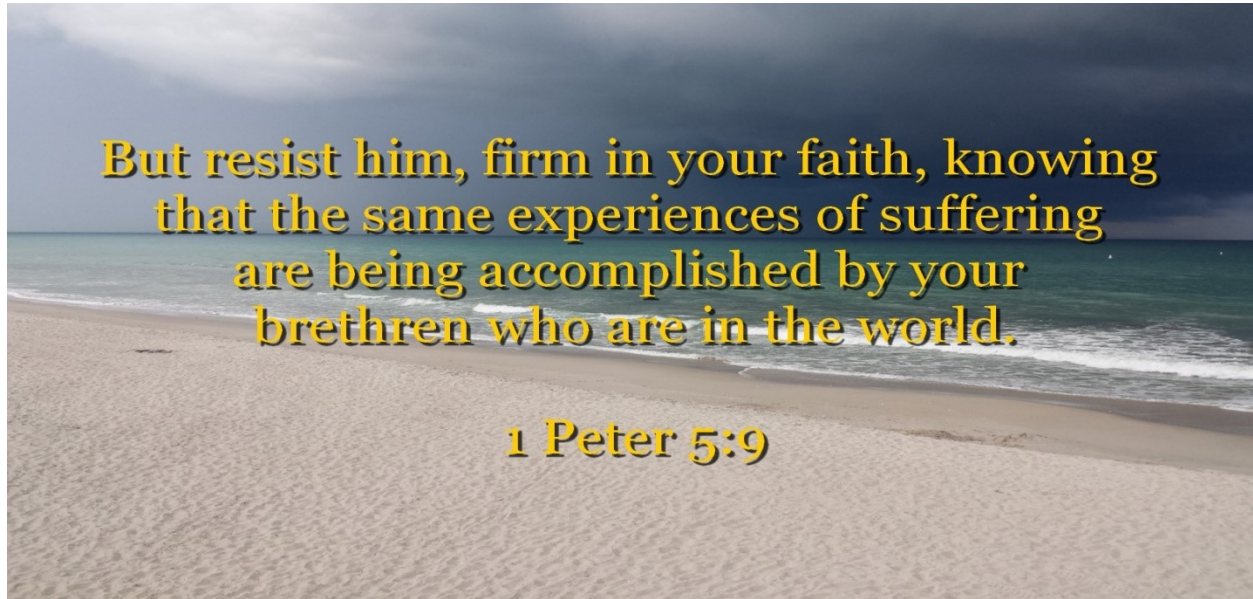
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by counting upon God to protect us from the devil by remaining sober and alert. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by casting all your care upon God, knowing that the devil prowls about, seeking to devour you?

HALLELUJAH!

Day One Hundred

Firm Today



How do we resist the devil? We resist the devil by standing firm in our faith.

While the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour, we resist. We resist the devil by being firm in our faith. We live by faith, not by sight. Our faith overcomes the world and the devil.

God wants us to know that the same experiences of suffering are shared by saints all over the world. God brings suffering into the lives of all His children in one form or another. The devil and his slaves hate Christians. The devil himself rules the world. They love to persecute Christians and make them suffer.

The Lord Jesus Christ first bound the strongman (the devil) and then plundered his house. Jesus rescued every saint from slavery to sin at the moment of salvation. The devil's hold on our lives has been broken once and for all by the power of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice today, standing firm in our faith, so that we can resist the devil. While we stand firmly in our faith, resisting the devil, we remember that God allows all saints to experience suffering for His Name's sake. We are not alone, because God is always with us, strengthening us in our faith so that we stand firm, resisting the devil.

Accomplished

1. **Resist**. How do we resist the devil? We resist the devil by remaining firm in our faith.

2. **Him**. We resist him as we suffer for Christ, humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and staying sober and alert.

3. **Firm**. Standing firm in our faith means that we remain steadfast and immovable.

4. **Faith**. Faith means the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

5. **Suffering**. Peter described suffering for the sake of Jesus as something that we should not be ashamed of.

6. **Brethren**. Living fervently in the family of God means we know the suffering that we endure, our brethren in the world also endure for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **World**. We rejoice today because the God says the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon us when we suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by resisting the devil, firm in our faith.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God by resisting the devil, knowing that our brethren in the world likewise suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to remain sober and alert, resisting the devil, knowing that we all share in the sufferings of Christ.**

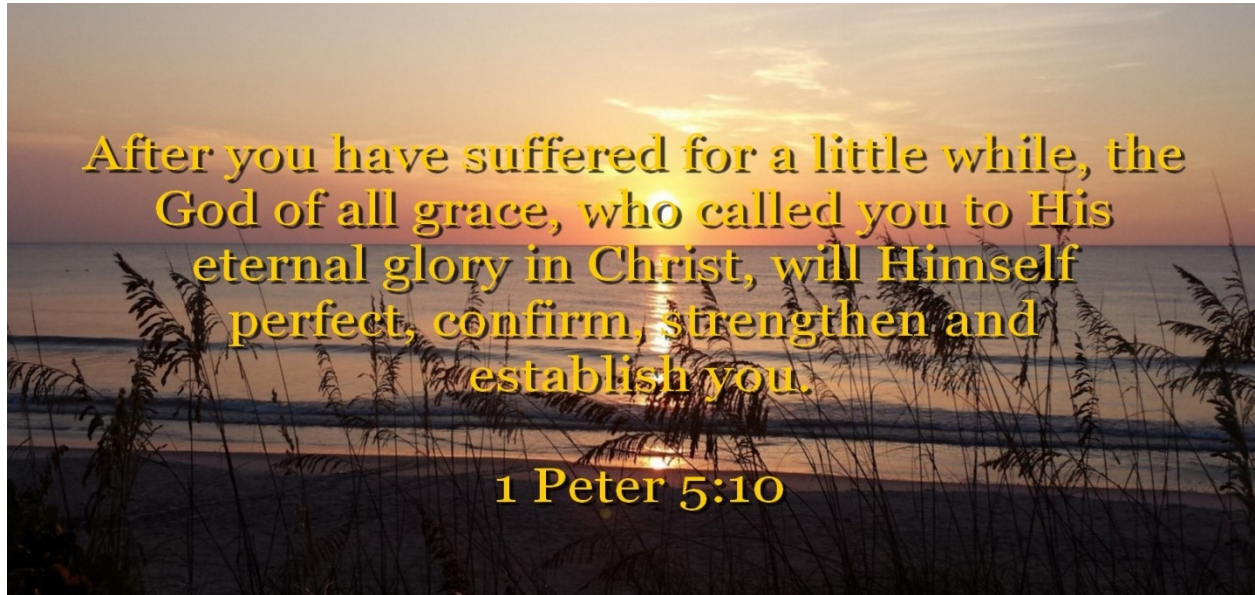
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by resisting the devil, firm in our faith, knowing that our faith is a victory that overcomes the world and the devil. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering that our brethren in the world likewise resist the devil, remaining firm in their faith?

HALLELUJAH!

Day One Hundred One

Suffer Today



How long do we suffer? We suffer for a little while on earth.

After we have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace takes action for us related to our suffering. God called us to His eternal glory in Christ. Because God has called us, God Himself will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish us in Christ.

Peter wants us to know that suffering is not an end in itself. Suffering serves as a prelude to God's further work in our lives. After our suffering, God will perfect us, meaning He will bring us to completion. Likewise, after suffering, God will confirm us, meaning that He will assure our hearts in Him having made us complete. God will also strengthen us, knowing that suffering requires an expenditure of spiritual strength to stand firm. God will also establish us, so that our feet will never slip because we stand upon the Rock, which is Christ Himself.

Peter talked about our present experience of suffering with a view towards God's further activity in our life after suffering. Following the same pattern, Peter discusses the future in terms of how it impacts our present.

Establish

1. **After**. What happens after you suffer? God takes action to make you perfect.
2. **Suffered**. God said we only suffer for a little while.
3. **God**. The God of all grace called you to His eternal glory in Christ.
4. **Perfect**. God promised to make us perfect, meaning complete and finished.
5. **Confirm**. God also promised to confirm His good work in us.
6. **Strengthen**. Living fervently in the family of God means that God also will strengthen us after we have suffered.
7. **Establish**. We rejoice today because God also promised to establish us, steadfast and immovable in Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by understanding that God intends for us to suffer only for a little while.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God praising the God of all grace, who will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you after you have suffered for His Name.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to trust the God Who called us to finish His work in us after we have suffered.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by remembering that God will not complete His work in us until we have first suffered for doing right. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by praising God that His work continues in us for a lifetime?

HALLELUJAH!

Day One Hundred Two

Dominion Today



What praise does Peter offer God as he closes his epistle? He ascribes all power to God forever and ever.

Peter used a common term for the power of God. That power raised Jesus Christ from the dead and empowers all of life's activities in Christ. That power belongs to Christ to the ages of the ages. In the New Testament, the term ages often refers to the time when Christ reigns upon the earth. When God wants to talk about a time beyond the millennial age, He talks about ages. When he wants to talk about time beyond ages, he uses the phrase the ages of the ages. This terminology roughly follows the Old Testament Hebrew concepts of time and more time.

Peter developed a theology of suffering and strength in Christ. We follow the example of Christ in our suffering so that we will also follow in His glory. Peter also gave a lot of attention to very specific instructions about living on earth now, during the time of persecution. He wanted us to

take courage from the future to live in the present. Knowing what God will do in the future encourages us to withstand the pressures of tribulation today.

Forever

1. **Him**. What praise did Peter offer God at the close of his epistle? To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.
2. **Be**. Peter described the praise of dominion to God and said it should be that way forever.
3. **Dominion**. Peter praised the power to God.
4. **Forever**. Peter described the time as to the ages of the ages.
5. **And**. By using the term to the ages of the ages, Peter meant eternal and without end.
6. **Ever**. Living fervently in the family of God means God's power continues supreme and infinite beyond all time.
7. **Amen**. We rejoice today and join Peter in saying Amen to the praise of God's power forever and ever.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by praising the power of God forever and ever.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God ascribing to God the worship that He is due.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to join in the praise of God's power and say Amen together.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by praising God for His loving power that He brings into our lives every day. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by making time to praise God for His great power forever and ever?

HALLELUJAH!

10

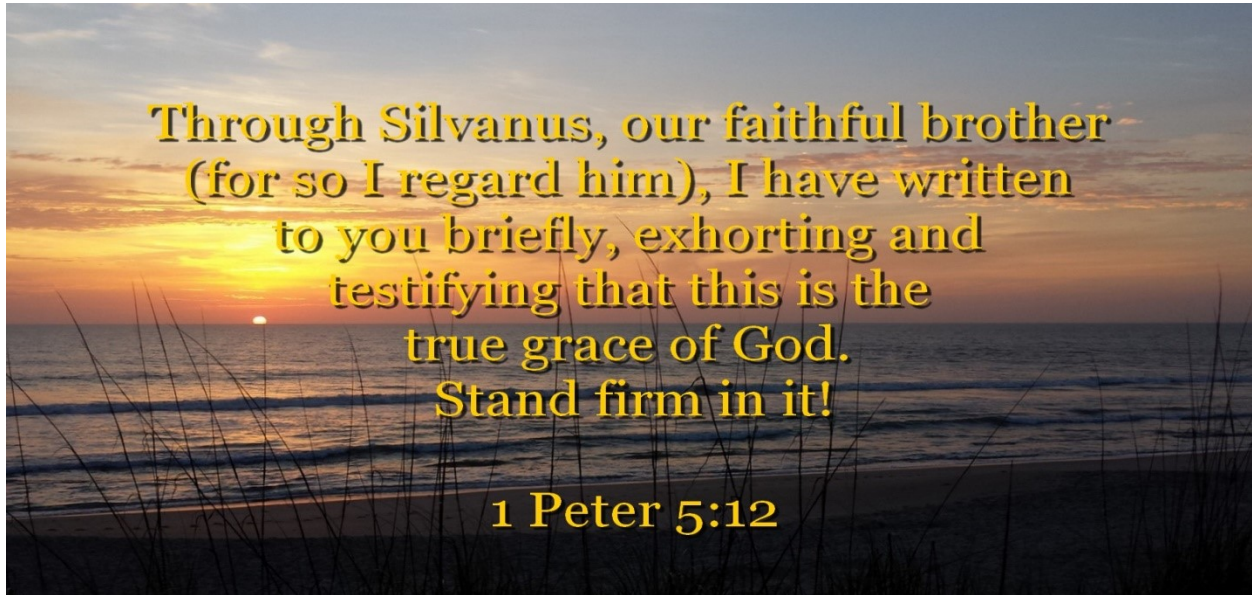
Friends in Christ Today

In closing, Peter mentioned some of his friends in Christ. Through Silvanus, the faithful brother, Peter wrote to the churches, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! Peter also mentioned that she who is in Babylon, chosen together with the saints, sends her greetings and so does my son, Mark.

HALLELUJAH !

Day One Hundred Three

Written Today



Who was Silvanus? Silvanus was a faithful brother of Peter.

While some people quickly assume that Silas who came from Jerusalem and accompanied Paul on a missionary journey is the same person as Silvanus, the faithful brother of Peter, the text does not provide an absolute identification.

Silvanus had some connection to the churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. Paul and Silas had traveled through those regions together, so we have some reason to believe that Silvanus and Silas may be the same person. We can be certain, however, that Peter held Silvanus in very high regard as his spiritual brother. He trusted him to take the message of Peter to those churches and Peter used him in writing First Peter.

Peter commanded the saints to stand firm in the true grace of God. Peter wrote, testifying and exhorting, about the true grace of God. Peter intended to help the suffering church find grace and strength from God.

Peter wanted the church to know that the grace he was talking about and wrote about was the true grace of God, in contrast to the imposters out there spreading a false gospel and false grace.

Exhorting

1. **Silvanus**. How did Peter regard Silvanus? Peter regarded Silvanus as a faithful brother.

2. **Faithful**. Peter valued faithful men and let faithful men know that he valued them.

3. **Regard**. Peter held Silvanus in high regard as a spiritual brother in Christ.

4. **Written**. Peter used Silvanus as a messenger carrying the epistle to the churches.

5. **Exhorting**. Peter wrote briefly, exhorting the brethren regarding suffering today and glory to follow.

6. **Testifying**. Living fervently in the family of God means Peter also wrote briefly, testifying as an eyewitness to the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection and ascension to glory.

7. **Grace**. We rejoice today Peter testified that he was writing about the true grace of God and commanded us to stand firm in it.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering Peter exhorting and testifying that he wrote about the true grace of God.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God letting our faithful brothers know that we regard them as faithful.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another to stand firm in the true grace of God.**

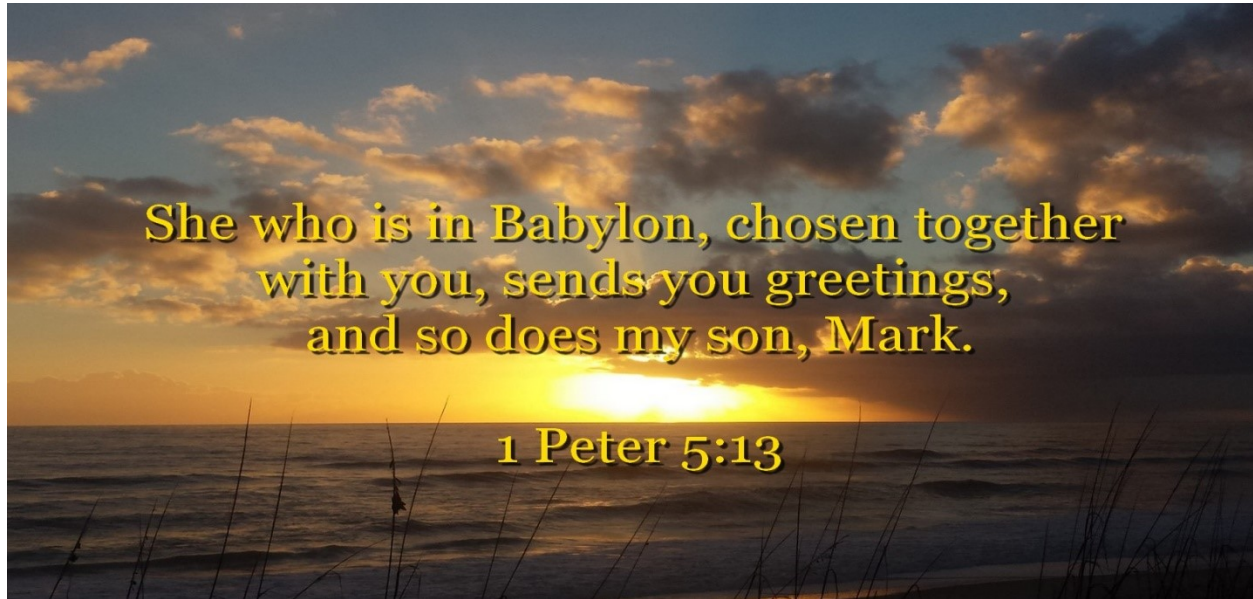
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by standing firmly in the true grace of God. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by standing firmly in the true grace of God?

HALLELUJAH!

Day One Hundred Four

Chosen Together Today



Who was the woman in Babylon Peter wrote about? Peter did not identify the woman in Babylon because the churches he wrote to knew the woman.

Many people today speculate that Babylon equals Rome. Because persecution had broken out in Rome, some people contend that Peter wanted to preserve the identity of the woman and so used the term Babylon to describe Rome. Whoever the woman was, the audience knew her.

Peter emphasized that the woman was chosen of God. She was chosen together with the audience Peter wrote to. Peter's epistle has a very universal tone and message. Therefore, people refer to his epistles as general epistles to the churches. They provided revelation specific to the churches described in Chapter 1 of First Peter, but his message and expectation had a more universal appeal as well. God frequently uses the apostles and prophets in the Scriptures to deliver His revelations to the church at large.

Peter worked with a ministry team, just like the other apostles. He was acquainted with Silvanus and the woman in Babylon. He knew his audience well enough to have the same friends with them.

Greetings

1. **She**. What woman sent greetings? Peter mentioned a woman in Babylon sending greetings.

2. **Babylon**. Peter did not identify Babylon, but he could have been referring to Rome during the time of persecution of the believers there.

3. **Chosen**. Peter referred to the woman as chosen together with the saints he addressed in his epistle.

4. **Sends**. Peter sent along her greetings to all the saints, as if they knew each other.

5. **Greetings**. Sending greetings for messengers characterized the early church.

6. **Son**. Living fervently in the family of God means Peter considered Mark his son.

7. **Mark**. We rejoice today because Peter referred to Mark as his son, indicating a close spiritual connection between them.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by remembering the woman in Babylon and Mark, the son of Peter.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God knowing Peter encouraged contact and relationships between other believers, indicating that Peter did not minister alone.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another with messengers and words of love from one to another in the body of Christ scattered abroad and living as aliens in foreign lands.**

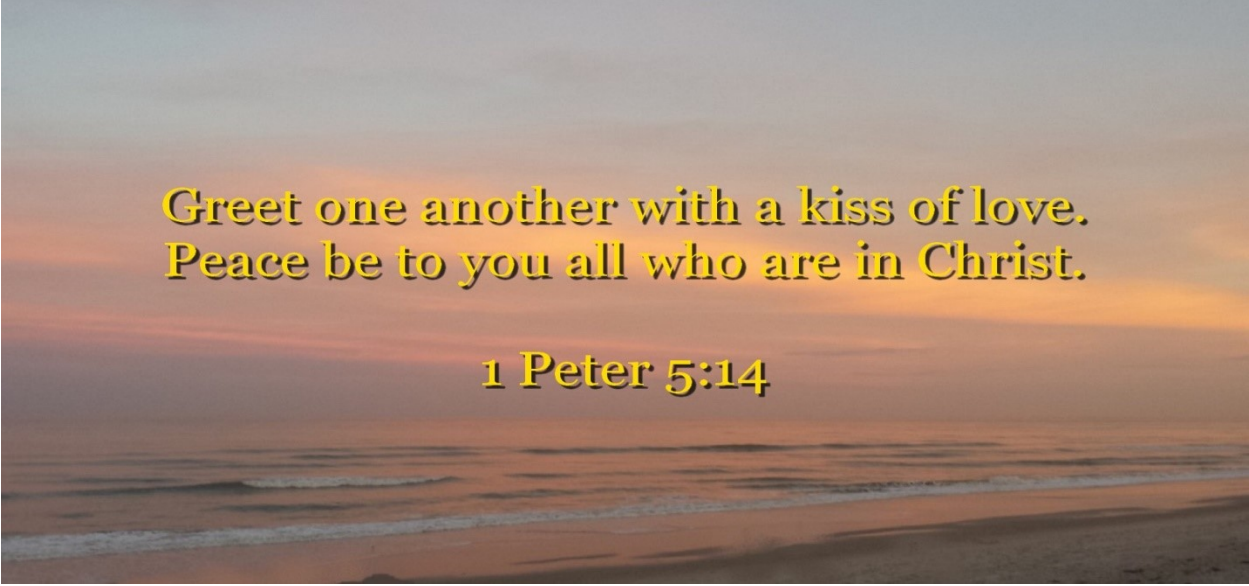
Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by promoting contact among believers scattered in various churches in distant lands. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by reaching out to other believers scattered across the world?

HALLELUJAH!

Day One Hundred Five

Greet Today



Greet one another with a kiss of love.
Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

1 Peter 5:14

How did Peter conclude his epistle? Peter commanded his audience to greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peter had a warm and kind spirit flowing through his first epistle. He understood suffering and the people who suffer. He provided very practical guidance as an elder of the church and an apostle of Jesus Christ. He was an eyewitness of Jesus Christ in the flesh and spent time with Him for years on earth. Peter learned directly from Jesus about ministry and people.

By commanding the believers to greet one another with a holy kiss of love, Peter was providing a tangible means of expressing the love of Christ to other believers. As those believers went through suffering and very difficult times, they could always count upon a greeting with a kiss of love from other believers.

Peter also closed his letter with the wish of peace to all who are in Christ. Paul described peace with God coming through faith in Christ the Savior. Peter applied that same peace from God as a final greeting for the saints. Although they were suffering through intense persecution, they

could still know the peace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ, for Whom they suffered to the glory of God.

Peace

1. **Greet**. What final words did Peter give? Peter gave a command to kiss other believers in love and to be at peace.
2. **Another**. Peter wanted other believers to greet one another in love.
3. **Kiss**. A kiss was often a sign of great affection between believers.
4. **Love**. A kiss with love expressed the love of God in tangible form to another believer.
5. **Peace**. Peter also wished peace to all the family of God.
6. **All**. Living fervently in the family of God means Peter spoke peace to all the Christians spread all over the world.
7. **Christ**. We rejoice today because we are all in Christ as one family of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live fervently in the family of God by greeting one another with a holy kiss of love in Christ.**
- **We live more fervently in the family of God remembering Peter wishing peace for all believers in Christ Jesus.**
- **We live together fervently in the family of God by encouraging one another with a holy kiss and wishes for peace.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live fervently in the family of God by greeting each other with a holy kiss and wishing each other peace in Christ. Will you live fervently in the family of God today by remembering Peter and His eyewitness testimony about the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace displayed through our suffering today with glory to follow?

HALLELUJAH!

Conclusion

Peter wrote a general epistle, meaning that he did not write to a specific church with specific problems. Peter addressed general themes about our blessings in Christ, the priesthood of all believers, learning to submit to authority, and how to endure suffering for the sake of Christ. Peter also addressed fervently loving one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. As believers go through fiery ordeals, they should not be surprised, but look forward to the glories of Christ to be revealed in the future. Peter also talked about the elders, writing to them as a fellow heir and as a fellow elder and a partaker of the divine nature. He urged them to shepherd the flock, looking forward to the reward they will receive with the Chief Shepherd appears. Peter then talked about humility and how we resist the devil by being sober and alert. Peter closed his epistle by mentioning his friends in Christ and who sent their greetings and bidding peace to all the saints.

HALLELUJAH !