



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 10

### 1 Peter 4:7-11: Work While You Wait

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another  
as good stewards of God's varied grace... – 1 Peter 4:10 ESV*

- **In the meantime**

- Key Themes of Previous Weeks
  - Not of this world
  - Live with the end in mind
  - Submission
  - Future hope
- What do we do with this now?
  - Nothing in this world seems to be pointing to hope
  - We are suffering

*“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I **will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.** And you know the way to where I am going.” – John 14:1-4 NLT*

- Jesus says he's coming back
- While they didn't fully understand, the disciples lived expectantly of Jesus' return

*You, too, must be patient. Take courage, **for the coming of the Lord is near.** – James 5:8 NLT*

*This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; **time is running out.** Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. – Romans 13:11-12 NLT*

*And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him. – Hebrews 9:27-28 NLT*

- Peter spends a lot of time pointing to the coming of Christ
  - He believed fully in the return of Christ
  - This fueled the way he lived

*The end of all things is at hand... - 1 Peter 4:7 ESV*

- Peter hinges his argument on the return of Christ

*“Christ’s return was always near to the feelings and consciousness of the first believers. It was the great consummation on which the strongest desires of their souls were fixed, to which their thoughts and hopes were habitually turned.” – Nathaniel Marshman Williams, *An American Commentary on the New Testament**

- The return of Christ informed their entire way of living
- The same should be true of us
- What does this look like practically?

*...therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. – 1 Peter 4:7-9 ESV*

- Self-control
- Sober-mindedness
- Love for one another
- Hospitality

- **Self-Controlled and Sober-Minded**

- Simply put, Peter is saying have a clear mind
  - Don’t be distracted by your current circumstances
  - Keep your focus on the imminent return of Christ

*...stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man. – Luke 21:36 ESV*

*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. – Colossians 3:2-4 ESV*

- These verses remind us of what Peter has been saying all along
  - We have to live with the end in mind
  - We can't let our persecution or worldly circumstances cloud our minds
  - But why?

*...therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. – 1 Peter 4:7 ESV*

- Not thinking clearly would...
    - ...negatively impact their prayers lives
    - ...result in prayer lives that are only focus on present desires
    - ...produce prayers that are me-centered rather than God-centered
  - This is why Paul says, "Set your minds on the things above."
- Peter had the example of Jesus in mind when he wrote:

*"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:*

*"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven." – Matthew 6:7-10 ESV*

- Jesus gives us two contrasting ways to pray:
    - Praying out of selfishness
    - Praying with a future-minded mentality
  - Do we pray for our will or God's will to be done?
- Having a clear and sober mind allows you to focus on the reality of our future hope in Christ
  - Only through that future hope can we make sense of the present chaos

- None of this is possible unless we have self-control and sober minds

- **Love one another**

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. – 1 Peter 4:8 ESV*

- This is something Peter has stressed the entire book

*Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again – 1 Peter 1:22-23 ESV*

*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. – 1 Peter 3:8 ESV*

- Peter goes further with this definition of love than he has previously
  - He almost always used the Greek word *phila* for love
  - But here he uses *agape*  
**agape – divine love** characterized by sacrifice in pursuit of another person’s good
    - This is a much deeper love than brotherly love
    - The love that God has for us

*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. – John 13:35 ESV*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16 ESV*

- What does this love look like? (1 Corinthians 13)
 

Patient	Not irritable
Kind	Not resentful
Not envious	Rejoices in the truth
Not boastful	Bears all things
Not arrogant	Believes all things
Not rude	Hopes all things
Doesn’t insist on its own way	Endures all things

*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall **love** your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, **love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... – Matthew 5:43-44 ESV*

- This type of love is impossible without the Holy Spirit

- This *agape* love is the type of love we are to have for each other
- To cover sin  
*... love covers a multitude of sins.* – 1 Peter 4:8 ESV

- At a very basic level “to cover sin” is to forgive it
  - Love not only covers sins of others but also yourself
  - The best example sin is Jesus’ death on the cross

*Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.* – Proverbs 10:12 ESV

- Unity is the goal
- Peter says we are to love in unison **for the glory of God**

- **Hospitality**

*Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.* - 1 Peter 4:9 ESV

- Peter gets practical
  - Be hospitable
  - Consider the context
    - Be hospitable towards the slave; woman married to an unbelieving husband

*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.* – Romans 12:13 ESV

*Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!* – Hebrews 13:2 NLT

- Being hospitable can be difficult
- It does not come naturally
  - Sacrifice
  - Time
  - Effort

*...must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.* – 1 Timothy 3:2-3 ESV

*He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.* – Titus 1:7-8 ESV

- Showing hospitality is a visual representation of the gospel

- It is seeing people as worth more than whatever they can do for you

- **Serve One Another**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV*

- Every believer has a gift to further the kingdom
- Exercising this gift shows God's grace to the world

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... - 1 Peter 4:10 ESV*

- Spiritual gifts are a manifestation of God's grace
- God's grace is shown in many ways
- We are stewards of God's grace

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 ESV*

- Peter is saying that God is present in and through the use of our spiritual gifts
- Our gifts are a manifestation of God's variegated grace
  - We all have gifts
  - We are all called to serve with these gifts

### **For Further Discussion**

Knowing God is present when we use our spiritual gifts, how does that change the way we view them?

What are some simple ways to show agape love and hospitality?

Could it be that the strength of our private prayer life is an indication of our lack of self-control and sober-mindedness?



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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 11 HOMEWORK

### **WEEK 11 – 1 Peter 4:12-19: Unsurprised by Suffering**

In these verses, Peter continues to encourage his readers to see their trials as a form of purification, a refining process that God was using to prove the quality and genuineness of their faith. These tests were for their benefit, not God's. The Almighty knew their hearts and needed no proof to determine the legitimacy of their faith. But He also knew that the very presence of trials in their lives was causing them to doubt and reconsider their faith.

Suffering was an ever-present reality, but so was the rich inheritance that God had promised. While we cannot see it or experience in this life, it is nonetheless a unwavering promise of God on which we can rest wholly confident and assured.

We have been given all the resources we need to remain on the path and to reach our final destination. At times, we will experience loneliness as we make our way. The path we have chosen is not the popular or well-traveled one. There will be plenty of distracting detours. We will find ourselves running out of steam and tempted to give up. But we can trust our souls to a faithful Creator.

- Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.

- Set aside some time to read pages 69-76 of Ken's Devotionalary™ on 1 Peter.

- Go back and look at 1 Peter 1:6-7. What do you think this has to do with the “fiery trials” he talks about in verse 12?

Why should the presence of these purifying and refining trials not shock or surprise us?

According to verse 13, Peter seems to think that, rather than being put off or angered by these tests, we should rejoice in them. What does he give as the reason for our rejoicing?

Read the following quote from this week’s Devotional™ reading, then write down your thoughts.

“...for Peter and Paul, it was ridiculous to think that their life journeys would be devoid of suffering and pain. Jesus had warned them: ‘Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows’ (John 16:33 NLT). But He had gone on to assure them: ‘But take heart, because I have overcome the world’” (John 16:33 NLT).

- What do you think Peter is referring to when he writes: “the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you?”

Read Ephesians 1:14. What does this tell you about this Spirit that rests upon you, and why should that be an encouragement?

- Read verse 17 slowly and carefully. Why does Peter say judgment must begin at the household of God?
- Close by reading verses 18-19. Since Jesus said, “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son” (John 3:18 NLT), what kind of judgment could Peter be referring to?