

1 Peter

Week 2: Holy People in a Broken World

Scripture

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Review

In 1 Peter 1:1-12, Peter was writing to suffering Gentiles/Jewish readers, who were living as suffering exiles; however, in their suffering, God never lost sight of them.

Their hope rested in three facts...

- This world was not their home
- Earthly suffering would be only for a time
- God was preparing an eternal inheritance for them

Peter reminds believers that their identity and hope are anchored in God's eternal plan - *chosen by the Father, set apart by the Spirit, and redeemed by the Son.*

And, because of Jesus' resurrection, they have a living hope and an eternal inheritance that cannot fade.

Suffering in this life test and strengthen faith, producing joy that rests not in *circumstances* but in *Christ*. He is both the *source* and the *substance* of our hope.

Motivation

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to drift spiritually?

We don't wake up one morning and decide to become less holy, less focused, or less faithful. It just happens quietly over time.

Peter is writing to Christians who are scattered, struggling, and tempted to blend into the world. His call is: *Don't slowly drift away—be set apart.*

So, the question we must ask ourselves today is, *"If God has saved us, how should we live in a world that pressures us to compromise?"*

When we feel lost in a world that is not our home and the attacks from within and without are strong, God does not call us to **APATHY**, but **ACTION**.

Information

Three Callings While Enduring Suffering...

- **A Call to Godly Behavior** *(remember that this is the Spirit's work in you)*
 - ✓ Prepare your mind for action (sober-minded and hopeful)

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

 - Be careful about allowing your mind to wander

"Control the things you decide to set your mind upon." – David Guzik
 - Be hopeful (a hope not divided between the world and Christ)
 - ✓ Don't conform to the sins of your past, but be obedient children (changed/holy)

Peter 1:14 (ESV) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

"The reason for practicing a holy manner of living is that Christians are associated with the holy God and must treat him and his word with respect and reverence. We therefore glorify him best by being like Him." – John MacArthur
- **A Call to Fear the Lord** *(not those who are persecuting, but God)*
 - ✓ Suffering should be accompanied by a fear of God, not a fear of man

1 Peter 1:17 (ESV) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile

"Fear is evidenced by a tender conscience, a watchfulness against temptation, and avoiding things that would displease God." – Bible Knowledge Com.
 - ✓ Control of our lives shouldn't rest in the "perceived" power of ourselves or our persecutors, but in the power of Christ's death and resurrection

1 Peter 1:18 (ESV) ...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **20** He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you **21** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Romans 8:11 (NLT) The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

■ **A Call to an Always-Maturing Faith**

- ✓ **Evidenced in a deep love for others** (expressed in simple kindness)

1 Peter 1:22 (ESV) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart...

- ✓ **Evidenced in the power of God's Word to do its work in us**

1 Peter 1:23 (ESV) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you."

- ✓ **Evidenced in a faith that is active and growing**

- A putting off evil behavior, deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and rude speech

1 Peter 2:1 (ESV) So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

- A continued longing for the Word rooted in God's goodness

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV) Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

"To drink the milk of the Word is to 'taste' again and again what He is like, for in the hearing of the Lord's words, believers experience the joy of personal fellowship with the Lord himself." – Wayne Grudem

Application

So what do we do with this? Peter is clear—our faith cannot sit still.

It must be active, growing, and moving toward Christ. That means...

- **I need to set my mind on the Lord first and daily**

Before I grab my phone or run into the busyness of the day, I need to fix my thoughts on Christ and His grace.

- **I need to choose holiness over blending in**

The world will constantly pressure me to go back to old patterns, but I've been bought with the precious blood of Jesus—so my life should reflect His holiness.

- **I need to fear God more than people**

When criticism or rejection comes, I have to decide whose voice matters most—people's opinion or my Father's approval.

- **I need to keep growing in love and the Word**

That means putting off old habits, loving others sincerely, and longing for the Word like a baby longs for milk. That is what keeps me alive spiritually.