

Peter is a wonderful man to study because he's so human. Of the many disciples who followed Jesus, the Lord chose twelve to be apostles, and Simon Peter was one of them. He was a fisherman by trade—called by the Lord from the Sea of Galilee to become a fisher of men. Peter was bold, quick to speak, quick to act, and more than once he had to learn that zeal needs wisdom. Yet the Lord used him powerfully, and here he writes to strengthen believers who are suffering.

1. The Greeting: Identity in a Hostile World

Pilgrims, Not Permanent Residents (First Peter 1:1–2)

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (First Peter 1:1).

Peter writes to believers spread across the Roman provinces. Many were scattered because of persecution that began in Jerusalem and rippled outward, just as we read in the Book of Acts. Some were Jewish believers, and some were Gentile believers—Peter will make that clear later when he speaks about those who “once were not a people” but now are God’s people (First Peter 2:10). The church is one family in Jesus Christ.

And notice the word “pilgrims.” That’s not just a poetic word. It’s a spiritual identity. Peter is telling them, and he’s telling us: you are not finally at home here. You live here, you work here, you raise a family here—but you belong to another Kingdom.

Then he says:

“elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied” (First Peter 1:2).

Here Peter shows the work of God in salvation without falling into extremes. He ties God’s choice to God’s foreknowledge, and he speaks of the sanctifying work of the Spirit, and the cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ. Salvation is not a human achievement. Salvation is God’s mercy received by faith, producing a life that follows Christ.

- Foreknowledge of God the Father: God is not guessing. He knows perfectly.
- Sanctification of the Spirit: the Spirit sets us apart and reshapes us.
- Sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: we are cleansed because Jesus saved us when He shed His blood on the cross.

And Peter blesses them with what every believer needs to hear: grace and peace—and not just a little, but multiplied.

Practical Application

If you’re a Christian, your circumstances do not get to define you. Your identity does. You are God’s, you are set apart, you are cleansed, and you are a pilgrim headed home.

2. The Doxology: Living Hope Through the Resurrection

Mercy That Gives New Birth (First Peter 1:3)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (First Peter 1:3).

Peter begins with worship. Why? Because the Christian life begins with God’s mercy. We did not crawl our way to God. God came to us in grace.

And He has “begotten us again”—that’s the new birth. This is not religion. This is life. And Peter says it produces “a living hope.”

Hope is essential. People hold on through dark seasons because they believe something can change. But Christian hope is not a wish. Christian hope is alive because Jesus is alive.

And that’s where Peter plants the flag: “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” The resurrection declares that Jesus is God, Savior, and Lord. If Jesus did not rise, the church has no foundation. But He did rise, and our hope is not fragile.

Practical Application

When your heart says, “It’s over,” the resurrection says, “It’s not over.” When your mind says, “I’m done,” the resurrection says, “He’s alive.” You can face tomorrow because Jesus walked out of the grave.

3. The Inheritance: Secure, Pure, and Unfading

Reserved in Heaven (First Peter 1:4–5)

“to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” (First Peter 1:4).

Peter describes what God has for His people:

- Incorruptible: it cannot decay.
- Undefiled: it cannot be polluted.
- Does not fade away: it cannot lose its glory.
- Reserved: it is kept safe by God.

Then he adds:

“who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (First Peter 1:5).

Here’s the balance Scripture gives us again and again: God is the Keeper, and faith is the means by which we receive and continue in that keeping. God’s power is not weak, and faith is not a work that earns salvation. Faith is the open hand that receives what God provides.

Practical Application

When you are tempted to think, “I’m barely hanging on,” remember this: the deepest truth is not that you are holding God. The deepest truth is that God is holding you—calling you to keep trusting Him.

4. The Trial: Refining Faith Through Fire

Rejoicing with Real Grief (First Peter 1:6–7)

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials” (First Peter 1:6).

Peter does not pretend trials are easy. He says believers can rejoice and grieve at the same time. That’s not hypocrisy—that’s maturity. Joy and sorrow can live together because joy is rooted in God’s promises, not in pain-free living.

“that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (First Peter 1:7).

God uses trials the way fire refines gold—burning off what does not belong and strengthening what is real. The goal is not to destroy you; the goal is to purify you, so your faith comes forth genuine, steady, and fruitful.

Practical Application

Ask yourself in the middle of pressure:

Lord, what are You refining in me? What are You burning away? What are You building? What are You teaching me?

5. The Love and Joy of Faith

Loving the One We Have Not Seen (First Peter 1:8–9)

“whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (First Peter 1:8).

This is the normal Christian experience: we have not seen Jesus with our physical eyes, but we love Him with our hearts. And even when life hurts, there is a joy that can’t be manufactured—a joy that comes from belonging to Christ.

“receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” (First Peter 1:9).

Faith has a destination. Your trials do not have the last word. Your salvation will be fully revealed, and Christ will be seen, and what you believed will become sight.

6. The Prophets and the Gospel

The Sufferings of Christ and the Glory to Follow (First Peter 1:10–12)

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully... searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow” (First Peter 1:10–11).

The prophets wrote more than they fully understood. They saw Messiah’s suffering and Messiah’s glory, but they couldn’t always fit the pieces together. We can, because we stand on this side of the cross and resurrection.

Peter says these things were revealed:

“not... to themselves, but to us” (First Peter 1:12).

And he adds that the gospel is so glorious that it is something:

“which things angels desire to look into” (First Peter 1:12).

Heaven never treats redemption as small. Neither should we.

7. The Call: A Holy Life in an Unholy World

Gird Up Your Mind (First Peter 1:13–17)

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (First Peter 1:13).

In Bible times, men wore long robes. To run or work, they pulled it up and tied it off. Peter says, do that with your mind. Stop drifting. Stop living mentally unguarded. Get intentional.

“as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance” (First Peter 1:14).

That’s the old life—when sin felt normal and holiness felt strange. But now we belong to Jesus.

“but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (First Peter 1:15).

“Be holy, for I am holy” (First Peter 1:16).

Holiness isn’t a way to earn salvation. Holiness is what salvation produces. God calls His children to look like their Father.

“pass the time of your sojourning here in fear” (First Peter 1:17).

Not terror—reverence. A sober awareness that your life matters, your choices matter, and God is not casual about sin.

Practical Application

Holiness begins where compromise ends. If you keep feeding what God calls you to put to death, you will stay spiritually weak. But if you yield to the Spirit, you will grow.

8. The Price: Redemption by Blood, Not by Money

The Lamb Without Blemish (First Peter 1:18–21)

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (First Peter 1:18–19).

You can’t purchase an eternal soul with temporary currency. Salvation is not bought. It is received.

Peter ties redemption to the Passover image: a substitute lamb, blood applied, judgment passing over. And then he points to the fulfillment—Jesus Christ, God’s Lamb.

Jesus saved us when He shed His blood on the cross.

“He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (First Peter 1:20).

Then Peter anchors our faith in the resurrection:

“who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God” (First Peter 1:21).

The resurrection is God’s stamp of approval on the finished work of Christ. Jesus is Lord.

9. The Evidence: Real Love for God’s People

Love One Another Fervently (First Peter 1:22)

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (First Peter 1:22).

One of the strongest proofs that the gospel has taken root is sincere love for believers. Not fake. Not performance. Not “church talk.” Real love—patient, humble, forgiving, serving.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you... By this all will know that you are My disciples” (John 13:34–35).

Practical Application

If you want to measure your spiritual health, don’t start with your opinions. Start with your love. Are you becoming easier to forgive? Quicker to serve? Slower to judge? More willing to reconcile?

10. The New Birth: The Word That Endures Forever

What Fades and What Remains (First Peter 1:23–25)

“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (First Peter 1:23).

God's Word is living seed. It produces real life—new life—eternal life.

“All flesh is as grass... The grass withers, and its flower falls away,
But the word of the Lord endures forever” (First Peter 1:24–25).

Everything around us fades. Bodies fade. Achievements fade. Trends fade. But God's Word stands, and those born by that Word will live forever.

“And this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you” (First Peter 1:25).

A Challenge for Believers

This week, “gird up the loins of your mind” in one practical way:

- Turn off one steady source of fleshly feeding—something that dulls your conscience.
- Replace it with the Word of God daily.
- Pray through First Peter 1:13–16 each morning.
- And choose one person in the body of Christ to love fervently—serve them, encourage them, reconcile if needed, and refuse bitterness.

If God has purchased you with blood, you cannot live like you are cheap.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

If you have never surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, hear what Peter is saying: you are not redeemed by money, morality, or religion. You are redeemed only by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to save sinners. God raised Him from the dead, declaring that Jesus is God, Savior, and Lord. Turn from sin and put your trust in Him.

“whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

If you will come to Him—honestly, humbly, sincerely—He will forgive you, cleanse you, and give you new life.