



1 PETER

HOPE THROUGH CRAZY CULTURAL CHANGE

DEVOTIONAL & JOURNAL



Dear North Heights Family,

Peter is one of the most interesting disciples following Jesus. If Peter were alive today, his life would be the next new hit reality show. On his best days, he wrote two books of the Bible and was martyred for refusing to deny Christ. On his worst days, he tried to tell Jesus what to do and even denied knowing him.

In Peter's life, we see a normal Christian disciple—a person who really loves Jesus, a person who struggles with sins, and a person with whom the Lord is truly patient as he grows and matures in his faith. There is hope for Peter and there is hope for us.

Peter begins his letter by writing about salvation through faith and holiness through obedience. Something that we as Christians today must hang our hats on every single day.

May you find encouragement and hope in Peter's writing through this devotion and journal.

—Pastor Jordan

1 PETER

1 Peter was written by Peter, a disciple of Jesus, to persecuted Christians living in the Roman empire as an encouragement to stand strong in the faith. It also encourages believers today in how to respond through tough times, especially persecution.

Peter suffered much for the sake of sharing the gospel. He suffered persecution and so did Jewish believers who were pushed out by their unbelieving families and the religious leaders. During this time, Christianity was considered a separate religion, not a Jewish sect.

1 Peter alerted believers that persecution would continue and possibly grow. But there is hope, encouragement, and comfort in Jesus. Even in the midst of suffering, we have confidence in God's work and salvation.

As we begin our study in 1 Peter, use this devotional for your personal Bible study, for family-time devotions, or small groups. As you make your way through this devotional, I encourage you to join in a SOAP journal.

S

Scripture: What verse sticks out to you? Write it down.

O

Observation: What is God saying to you in this scripture?

A

Application: Personalize what you have read by asking how it applies to your life right now?

P

Prayer: Write out a prayer asking God to help you apply this scripture to your life or for greater insight on what He might be revealing to you.

DAY 1 1 PETER 1:1-5

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:
May grace and peace be multiplied to you.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Peter begins by writing to specific churches and believers scattered around the Roman Empire. He wants to encourage them (and you) in the fact that God knows all things, and through His great mercy has offered us a living hope through Jesus. Peter, who walked with Jesus, knew that it was all about Jesus. Peter knows how easy it is to fall into the trap of thinking it is all about us and what we want. So he starts this letter by reminding us that, no matter our situation, God is greater and Jesus is Lord.

Life is hard, but we are to look beyond that to the things of heaven. The greater things of a living hope through Jesus, and an inheritance that cannot be taken away. What does that look like for you today?

Today, stand firm in the truth that your hope, your inheritance, and God's power are being guarded for a salvation that is to be revealed to all.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 2 1 PETER 1:6-9

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Why is it so hard to praise? We often get so bogged down by the challenges that life throws at us, that we forget to rejoice. Peter tells us these trials are producing a genuineness of our faith, and the result of that is praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus. Trials in life shift our focus from Jesus to our own situation. Peter is reminding us that even though we have not seen Jesus, we love him. So when our trials take up our focus, it's time to shift our gaze back heavenward.

What happens when we turn our eyes towards heaven instead of our trials?

In the great hymn, *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, the lyrics show us this great hope.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace

Today, turn your eyes upon Jesus even though you may not see Him with your eyes. When you look for Him, you will find the rest of this world and its problems grow strangely dim in comparison to Him.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 3 1 PETER 1:10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Throughout history people have sought the truth of salvation. The prophets searched and inquired about it. But, it was not for their benefit but ours. We are the fortunate recipients of something that has been sought out for centuries. Have you ever thought of that?

The truth of Jesus and the salvation found in Him was revealed through the Spirit-inspired insight of those who have come before us. You are no afterthought in God's redemptive work. God knew you from the very beginning. He orchestrated everything so that you might take hold the truth of your salvation. It was all for you! This is the good news—God's redemptive work is for you. Not that you would stay where you are but that you would be transformed. This is what angels long to see.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 4 1 PETER 1:13-16

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. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Peter does not want us to remain where we are because he knows that God loves us too much to leave us where we have been. Just like good parents want to help their children develop and grow. Jesus' revelation shows us where we could be in Him. So now we prepare our hearts and minds in the revelation of Jesus.

This is like rolling up our sleeves and taking off excessive clothing, that we might not have an excuse to join in what is hard. Being sober-minded means that we hold ourselves back from anything which would rob us of our reasoned judgement and balanced life. So we set our hope on the grace that is only found in Jesus and not on this world.

You are called and privileged to be holy. To be holy means to be separated and set apart for a special and unique purpose. Because God is holy, when you find yourself in Him, you too are holy. Not because of anything you have done but because of what He has done.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 5 1 PETER 1:17-21

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, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 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.

God cannot be swayed by anything we say and do, so we conduct ourselves with a reverent fear and let that reverent fear direct us toward God. He gives us the right to call Him Father. His holy love draws us into wise thinking and living, and inspires a sense of wonder and awe toward the greatness of God.

The treasure found in the blood of Christ is worth more than silver and gold. It is eternal. This treasure was placed before the foundation of the world for our sakes that through Jesus we might have a faith and a hope that is found in the never-ending power of God.

So do not cling to the things inherited from our forefathers and return to our futile ways of thinking. But live with the knowledge that you live in a time between redemption and consummation. This is the way of Jesus—that by Him and through Him, we have come to believe in and call God “Father.” And we can trust Him as such.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 6 1 PETER 1:22-25

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, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Love one another earnestly. That’s often harder than it sounds. But Peter is encouraging believers that genuine love is one of the hallmarks of Christian conduct. Peter knew what this love meant from bitter experience. He had seen it in Jesus and he had experienced it in his own restoration. This love is active and intense. It is without guile or hypocrisy. It is the same love that Jesus has lavished upon us.

Love is the greatest thing in the world and it is the objective of truth. In this we have been born again. All of our struggle to holiness, to reverence, to anything means very little without love. This love attests to the fact that we have a new life. It is generated by the living, abiding, and imperishable Word of God.

Peter is writing this to believers who are faced with persecution and competing world views. He is saying Christians need each other and need to love each other. This love is the full fruit of the Word of God and it will stand forever.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



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DAY 7

SUNDAY WORSHIP NOTES



DAY 8 1 PETER 2:1-3

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

It's time to be done with it, all of it. It is so easy for us to fall back into the patterns of this world and act and speak just as the world does. But Peter says, "put it away, that's not who you are anymore." Albert Barnes once wrote, "A man that is characteristically deceitful, cunning, and crafty, cannot be a Christian." It is the work of Christ and His gospel to root out and reveal our deceitful and hostile natures towards others. He can then lead us toward the truth of who we truly are in Him.

As we take that journey, we are to be like infants—craving pure spiritual milk and being uninhibited in our pursuit of Jesus that we may grow into our salvation. This hunger cannot be satisfied by anything that is a false substitute. It can only be satisfied by the very presence of God Himself. How have you taken time to seek after His presence today?

When you rest in His presence and hunger for God, you will taste and see that the Lord is good.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 9 1 PETER 2:4-8

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Coming to Christ is a repeated action. This is what Peter is trying to draw you into. It is not your initial coming to Christ but a constant drawing near to the presence of God. You are not some random stone, but a living stone being built up and shaped. You are being built up to be more than you ever thought.

The question we have to ask ourselves is, “Am I willing to be shaped and used as a living stone for God’s purposes?” Too often we want to be the whole temple or to take Christ’s place as cornerstone. But Peter tells us that Christ is the cornerstone and we are to be built upon Him.

Just as a building rests on its cornerstone, so we rest on Christ. Even in the midst of pain, rejection, and disappointment our trust in Christ is never misplaced. We can safely put our confidence in Christ because He is faithful.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 10 1 PETER 2:9-12

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Have you ever thought of yourself as chosen? In Christ Jesus you are a person chosen, holy, one who belongs to God. Your life is no longer left in the darkness, but has been brought into His marvelous light. What Peter is trying to remind us of is that our lives are different now and should be different. Why? Because of the furious love and mercy of God. He cared about us so much that He would not leave us where we were, but called us out. Now we live differently. Even though there is war waging against our soul, we have confidence in Christ.

Even when others look at us and speak ill of us, it is how we live that sets us apart. There will be no denying what God had done in us and through us. It is the testimony that God is building in our lives.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 11 1 PETER 2:13-17

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

What does Peter want us to know about who we are? When he says, "for the Lord's sake be subject to every human institution," he is really reminding us that we are called to relate the eternal to the temporal and the sacred to the secular. This is not a dual loyalty. Instead, it is a loyalty to Christ where we seek the welfare of others as we serve them from the heart of God.

Why would we do this when the world seems so opposed to Christ? Peter's meaning goes deep. The word "institution" means "creature or that which is created." Peter is explaining that believers should submit themselves to serving others because they were created by God as well. We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

It may seem difficult, but we are able to live subject to human institutions while maintaining our freedom and identity in Christ. Our gratitude toward God is the source of our humility. So we live as servants of God, honor everyone, love each other, fear God, and honor our leaders. This gives us a divine mission to the world.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 12

1 PETER 2:18-21

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Peter, like Paul, neither condemn nor condone slavery because, during their time, they would have only drawn the wrath of the Roman Empire. Instead, he is encouraging believers to live in that situation in such a way to transform it—by first being transformed in Christ Jesus.

God is in control, so each day we take on in His power and His love. As workers or employers, we operate with the knowledge that God is in control and we turn all our problems over to Him. We do not operate passively or from a weak-willed submission to cruel people. Instead, we live free in Christ Jesus, because He has suffered for us. His example shows us how to live for others in the midst of our own suffering. So that in turn we may live knowing God is in control and allowing the Spirit to accomplish what He wants through our suffering.

What is it that you need to turn over to God and let Him take charge of today?

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 13 1 PETER 2:22-25

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

It's all about Jesus. In the midst of His suffering, He never retaliated. Peter is not saying sit back and be passive victims. Instead, call out to God for strength and for Him to work on your behalf. We rest in Jesus' suffering. He took upon Himself the fullness of our sins—past, present, and future—so that “we might die to sin and live to righteousness.” In this, we are reconciled, made right with God, and healed.

Each and every one of us have wandered through life. Peter describes Jesus as a shepherd who tirelessly looks after His sheep. Whatever trials or challenges you may face, the Shepherd is always by your side and will protect and seal you for all eternity. This is the hope we have in Jesus!

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



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DAY 14

SUNDAY WORSHIP NOTES



DAY 15 1 PETER 3:1-7

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Our marriage relationships are important. Peter takes a moment to counsel women who may have outnumbered men in the church during this time. He wants their transformation and example of Christian living to show to the unbelieving people around them. Submission does not mean blind obedience or inferiority, but a togetherness. He also addresses men, saying that men are to honor their wives. Men are to live in light of the gospel, which has much to say about love and respect. A man’s wife is by no means spiritually, morally, or intellectually weaker, but is to be looked at as a joint heir of the grace of Jesus.

Together men and women are called to operate in the grace, honor, and truth of Jesus, that they might live as examples to the outside world as a testimony of the power of Jesus in their lives.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 16 1 PETER 3:8-12

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For

*“Whoever desires to love life and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.*

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.*

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

When we face challenges in this life, we need to work together. Our life of faith is not a lone ranger faith, but a combined effort. We can't do it alone. Here are some of Peter's examples:

Unity Working together for the common goal of sharing the gospel.

Sympathy Sharing in others' needs.

Brotherly Love Loving each other in a way that draws Christians together.

Tender Heart Being moved by the hurts, pains, needs, and joys of fellow believers and acting on them.

Humble Mind Having an honest picture of who we are before God and being thankful to God for all He has given.

Which of these is the Holy Spirit drawing you to press into today?

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 17

1 PETER 3:13-17

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Romans 8:31 says, "If God is for us who can be against us?" Peter, like Paul, wants us to know that our lives are all about Jesus. We have a confidence and a hope in Him. We set our hearts on Him and seek to do good, not because it gains us anything in eternity, but because we desire to be more like Jesus. This also gives us an opportunity to share the reason for our hope.

Peter tells us trials, hardships, persecution, and opposition will come. We may not be able to stop these things, or other people from causing these things, but we can stop supplying them with ammunition. As long as we seek Jesus and what is right, we can have a clear conscience in our lives without fear of others.

Alexander MacLaren said, "Only he who can say, 'the Lord is the strength of my life' can go on to say, 'Of whom shall I be afraid?'"

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 18 1 PETER 3:18-20

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Jesus' death was once and for all. His sacrifice was sufficient. No other sacrifice will have to be made. That is how much God loves you. Through the flesh of His own son's death, all of your sins would be paid for. The receipt for that transaction is that Jesus, dying in the flesh, was made alive in the Spirit. Death could not hold him.

Do you know that Jesus' reign extends over all other authorities? That's what Peter is telling us. Jesus' authority and rein extends over all evil authorities that are still active today. We can rest assured that Christ has already won the battle. Jesus is the victor over what appeared to be defeat and offers that victory to you today.

Galatians 6:14 says, "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified in me and I to the world." His victory has set you free from the dominion of this world and given you a life in the Spirit where His authority is breaking into this world.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 19 1 PETER 3:21-22

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

When we are baptized into Christ Jesus we are baptized into his death. But the question we all ask when we read these verses is does baptism save us?

Look back at verse 18. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."

Peter is saying Jesus saves us and baptism becomes this sign that we belong to Him and are being washed clean through Him. Remember for Peter it's all about Jesus and all authority is His. The central focus of Peter in these verses is the resurrection of Jesus. He wants you to know that baptism is more than a spiritual bath. Baptism is a sign, seal, and sacrament that reminds us that God saves us in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:12 says, "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead." This emphasizes that it is our faith and the resurrection of Christ that bring salvation.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:





DAY 20 REST

Today, take time to rest and use this space to write out a prayer or write how you saw God move throughout your day.



A decorative header section with a dark background featuring intricate, light-colored wavy lines that resemble a topographical map or a wood grain pattern. The text 'DAY 21' is positioned on the left side of this section.

DAY 21

SUNDAY WORSHIP NOTES



DAY 22 1 PETER 4:1-2

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

We are called to live differently than the world. We seek to be “in the world but not of it.” This has often been hard for Christians.

We are called to live a new life. The phrase “arm yourselves” is a military metaphor. We are to arm ourselves in the same way as Christ Jesus—with a mindset of suffering, knowing that God will ultimately be victorious. When we arm ourselves in this way, we see the victory of Jesus and have a resolve to do God’s will in every circumstance.

Before we had a relationship with Jesus, we lived only to satisfy our human desires. But now, being in Christ Jesus, we become concerned with living by God’s will and not our own.

Martin Luther said, “Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God.”

Today, focus on letting your heart cling to God, confide in Him, and let your struggles and suffering draw you closer into His presence and perfect will.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 23

1 PETER 2:3-6

For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

Before we were Christians, we lived however we wanted to. Peter lists a number of things that people dive into to try to find pleasure and fulfillment. Without the hope of Jesus for life in eternity all we can do is live a life of self-gratification.

Jesus offers a better way. We now live in the Spirit the way God does. Something inside of us has been awakened. We start to live into the fruit of the Spirit instead of the fruit of the flesh.

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Galatians 5:22–24

How is this fruit evident in your life? Are you letting the Spirit transform your desires and passions to live in the same way God does?

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 24 1 PETER 4:7-8

The end of all things is at hand; 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.

How we relate to God helps us overcome the pressures of sin. With the end of all things at hand, early Christians who faced persecution found great comfort knowing that their suffering would one day end and that evil would be judged. Peter was always aware that Jesus could return at any moment and wanted other believers to be ready.

Peter experienced the love that he speaks about. Have you? He knew firsthand how weak we can become when faced with severe temptation without being grounded in prayer. Instead of praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter slept. When the time came, Peter betrayed his Lord. He doesn't want you to face the same weakness but to be ready and encouraged through prayer. We often think we are not skilled enough at prayer and worry about what we say. Billy Graham said, "God does not mind your stumbling and faltering phrases. He is not hindered by poor grammar. He is interested in your heart."

Jesus loves you more than you will ever know. Peter experienced this after the resurrection when Christ forgave him for denying him. When a wrong is committed against us, Peter says follow Christ's example of love. We have this ability to forgive and love because Christ has done the same for us.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 25 1 PETER 4:9-11

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 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.

Hospitality can be hard work. Some of our guests will be more difficult than others. Peter recommends that we don't complain but serve our guests, as though we are serving Jesus Himself.

Each of us has received spiritual gifts from God. These gifts are empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to be used in many ways in life and the Church. We use them not to bring ourselves glory but to show the glory of God. When we use our gifts to serve others, we are faithfully sharing God's grace in many different forms. To be a good steward means we don't hide our gifts but use them as they were meant to be. Are you using your gifts?

Whatever your gifts, use them for the glory of God. It is possible that Peter is remembering Jesus' words, "let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

It is our relationship with Jesus that allows us to receive gifts and use them to serve others. When we serve, it's all about Jesus. When we love, it's all about Jesus. When we use our gifts, it's all about Jesus.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 26 1 PETER 4:12-14

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Trials should not surprise us. We want life to be easy and predictable, yet trials are part of our reality. As Peter is writing to early believers, he is also writing to us. Hard times will come especially if you are a Christian. There is a constant tension between living in this world and following Christ.

The world's judgment of Christ reveals its character, and the spirit of this world is not friendly toward the Spirit of Christ. If we become so conformed to the world that we run into no trouble, it may be an indication that we have turned away from the radical, world-changing Spirit given to us through Jesus.

When we are in Christ Jesus and trials come (and they will), we are called to rejoice. That may seem strange, but we rejoice that we are coming into a closer relationship with Jesus' sufferings for us. We become partakers in the Lord's pain and we gain meaningful understanding of things in light of the cross.

What can the enemy do with someone like Peter who looks at suffering as a way to draw closer to Christ and eagerly awaits Jesus' glory to be revealed? The answer, nothing. Yes, trials are hard and persecution is hard. But with our eyes focused on Jesus, we see them not as meaningless or hard, but as producing something greater in us and drawing us closer to Jesus.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 27 1 PETER 4:15-19

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

When you are insulted for the sake of Jesus, you are blessed. But Peter makes the point that not all suffering results in blessing. Don’t be counted among the people who murder, steal, or do evil for they are deserving of the punishment and suffering they receive. If you suffer as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear His name. It is not shameful to suffer for being a Christian. No one wants to suffer, but to suffer for being Christian is not a disgrace.

As a bearer of Christ’s name you are a representative of Jesus on this earth. Therefore, in suffering you can glorify God because you bear His name. If we bear His name, we are called to take inventory of where we are. Judgement begins in the household of God. This is not something that should hold terror for us as Christians, but should assure us of God’s activity in history and in our personal lives.

Where do you see God working in your life?

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



A decorative header bar with a dark background and intricate, light-colored wavy lines that resemble a topographical map or a wood grain pattern. The text 'DAY 28' is overlaid on the left side of this bar.

DAY 28

SUNDAY WORSHIP NOTES



DAY 29 1 PETER 5:1-4

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Peter is often easy to identify with in Scripture. He makes quick decisions, he gets it and then he misses it. As we make our way through this first letter to the early church, we see the change in Peter's life.

When Peter says, "as a fellow elder," he is assuming that there are no higher positions among his fellow believers. He sees himself as equal to fellow leaders. Looking back on Peter's life, he was a boastful man. Now, in light of what Jesus has done, Peter has become a loving and humble servant.

Often times we think we need to learn more or have the right credentials and skills before we can live and lead effectively. I believe Peter is showing us that we need a heart for people, a humble spirit, and a growing faith in God. If we have these things, we rely on God's abundance instead of depending on ourselves.

All of us are called to shepherd. Maybe it's at work, within our family, or maybe in a small group, but we are all called to shepherd somewhere somehow. Here is the key to remember: good shepherds get to know the Good Shepherd!

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 30 1 PETER 5:5-7

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Humility can be hard for us to learn just as it was during Peter's time. Humility conflicted with pagan traditions and ideals of the perfect man. Just like how humility conflicts with today's self-help, fitness-crazed, self-promoting world or the idea that self-criticism and a spirit of dependence on God is not really conducive to the fullest expression of being human.

Peter wants believers to walk in true humility. The humble person does not think more lowly of themselves than they ought to. It is not self-deprecation or false modesty. Real humility, at its core, is the result of realizing that we have been saved by the unconditional and free grace of God.

We can look to Christ's example. He knew who He was, that all things were put into His hands by God, and yet He took a towel and stooped down to wash His disciples' feet. It was not a demonstration of weakness, but true strength. Likewise, we stoop down, serve, submit to authorities, and humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. It is under this mighty hand that we are safe to share our anxieties, because we see that our God cares for us.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 31 1 PETER 5:8-9

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

As we cast our anxieties on God, we must also be self-controlled and alert. Peter is basically saying, "Pay attention! Wake up!" There is a battle raging around us that we cannot see—a battle in the spiritual world. Every persecution, every trial, every hard thing believers face, ultimately boils down to one source—your enemy the devil.

Charles Baudelaire said, "The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist."

The truth is there is an enemy out there, the devil, and he is prowling around seeking to pounce when you least expect it. Peter wants us to be aware and watchful, but he also wants us to know that we can resist him. We can be firm in our faith and we are never alone. We must trust in Christ for our toughness and not in our own human effort.

Today, trust in Christ who has already defeated Satan. Read Ephesians 6:10–18 about the armor we must wear to fight this spiritual battle.

Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



DAY 32 1 PETER 5:10-14

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

It is hard to look beyond suffering when we are in the midst of it. Yet, if we see it from an eternal perspective, suffering is momentary. Suffering doesn't last forever. When we rest in the "God of all grace," we see that God supplies grace for every situation we face. While our suffering may only be for a little while, our glory in Christ will be eternal.

These final words promise hope, victory, and vindication for all we experience, not necessarily in this life, but assuredly in the next. Not only does God give grace, but He promises that He will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. He is the ultimate source of power forever and ever.

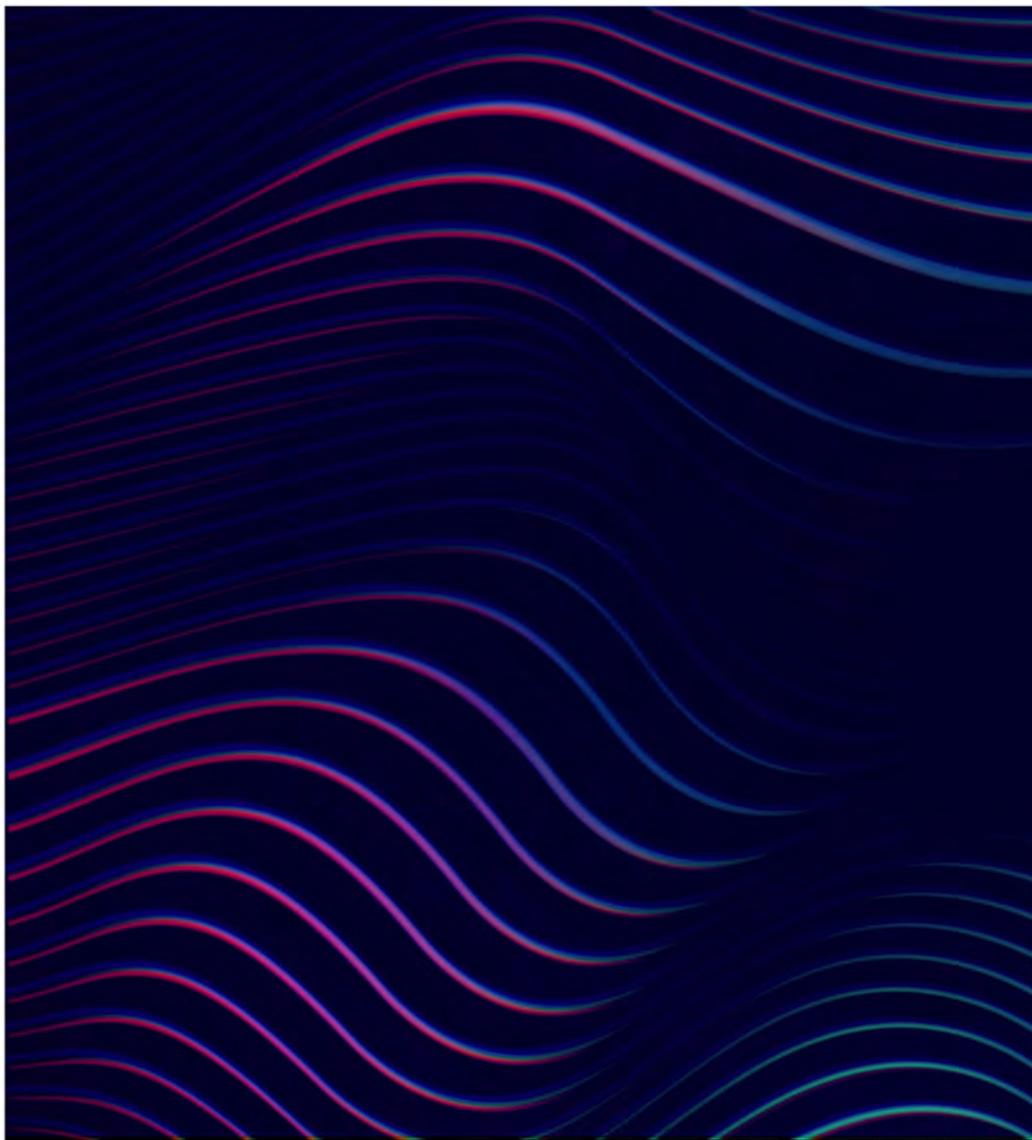
Scripture:

Observation:

Application:

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