

Within the Word

A Study of 1 Peter 1

A Note from Kathy

James and Peter both address the subject of difficulties that come our way from time to time. The truth is, it is not whether or not you will have trials and difficulties in life, because we all have them, it is how we handle the trials that truly matters. Peter reminds believers that we have been born again to a living hope. Our trials, though unpleasant at the time, serve a purpose. Keep this in mind as you study 1 Peter. Let's look beyond the circumstances to see God's purpose.

Observation

1. Read the chapter, at least twice, before beginning the study guide. God longs to speak to us from His word. Why not stop for a moment and acknowledge His presence. Tell Him you are ready to hear from Him.
2. Peter identifies himself as the author of this letter in verse 1. What do you learn about Peter in this first verse?
3. List some of the things you learn about the people to whom Peter was writing (vs. 1-2)?



Taken from the Tyndale Handbook of Bible Charts & Maps

4. Peter's reason for writing is to encourage and to give hope, in spite of trials. In verse 2, he states his desire for Christians to have grace and peace. To what extent does he want them to experience these?
5. We must be very careful not to allow the busyness of our day to distract us from things of real importance. What does Peter point out in verse 3?
We should never be so busy we neglect _____.

6. In verse 4, Peter describes an inheritance. Who receives an inheritance?
7. What do you learn about this inheritance that sets it apart from any other inheritance you may receive?
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8. What is the benefit for a person who has placed their faith in Christ's finished work (v. 5)?
9. Peter sounds a bit like James. Notice what he calls believers to do when faced with a trial. We are to _____. Peter gives us the reason for such an unusual request in the next verse. It is because we are being _____. The result of this will be that our faith is proven to be genuine, which will result in _____, _____, and _____ at His second coming.
10. Using verse 8, fill in the blanks below.
- "You have not seen him" and yet _____.
- "You do not see him now" and yet _____.
- What is the result of this kind of faith? _____
11. Salvation has always been available for those who repented of their sins. God has used various means to reveal his grace to men and women throughout the centuries. Complete the sentences below (vs. 10-12).
- _____ spoke of the grace to come.
- _____ pointed to the coming Messiah.
- _____ preached the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) by the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit
- _____ longed to see these things come to pass.
12. Even though the Old Testament prophets wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, did they have a complete understanding of all the future events? What do you believe was the purpose for the prophecies concerning Jesus' birth, life, and death?
13. According to verses 13-17, what are believers instructed to do?

14. The word redeemed in verse 18 was translated from the Greek word *Lutroo*, which means to release on the receipt of a ransom. Romans 3:23 makes it very clear that all have sinned. Romans 6:23 tells us the wages of sin is death. All humanity is under a death sentence, because we have all sinned. There is only one who was without sin, only one who could offer himself in our place. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." How were we redeemed, and who was our atoning sacrifice (vs. 18-19)?
15. As you continue to read this chapter, what do you learn about our redeemer? Did God wake up one day, see the mess the world was in, and look for a solution? Think about this for a few minutes. What does this tell you about God?
16. In verses 22-25, what is the outward manifestation of our love for God?

Application

1. Peter says these recipients have been scattered. What government was in power over them? What nationality were most of these believers, prior to becoming a Christ follower? What do you suppose caused them to scatter?
2. Verse 2 says they were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. Read Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 2:8 below. How do these verses help us further appreciate the gift of our salvation? People often say they had been searching for God. Or they say they had been wandering in sin, until one day they saw their sin for what it was, and they turned to God. But according to verse 2, what is the truth? How does knowing this make you feel?

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God ...

3. Read John 10:27-30 and 1 Corinthians 10:13, to go along with verse 5. How might these sections of scripture build your faith and enable you to stand through difficult circumstances?

John 10:27-30

²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

4. If you are going through trials right now, I invite you to join David as he opens his heart to the Lord in Psalms 3. What are David's enemies saying? But what is the truth about the situation? Search carefully, and glean all you can. God is no respecter of persons. What God did for David, He will do for all His children.
5. Our faith will be rewarded one day, but what are we to do until then? Peter has spoken very clearly about God's promise to believers. How are we to live in the meantime? Do you sometimes feel like you are in a "meantime" situation? In what way are you applying the treasure found in 1 Peter 1 to your situation?
6. All the writings of the prophets in the Old Testament were inspired by the Holy Spirit. There are over 350 Old Testament prophecies that point to the Messiah. How does knowing this fact affect your walk of faith?
7. As you looked at verses 22-25, did someone come to mind - someone who is perhaps a bit difficult to love? The Greek word that was translated to "love one another deeply" actually means to love fervently, to be stretched to the limit. What choice are we faced with when we study God's word?

8. It can be difficult for us to love others the way the Lord has instructed us to love them. Sometimes it is because of a previous hurt or a fear of what might happen. Jesus set a tremendous example for us. He was misunderstood, ridiculed, treated unfairly, and even tortured. He was innocent, as he stood, silently, on the platform before Pilate. When asked, the crowd cheered and chose wicked Barabbas, an evil, vile, murdering thief, to go free. Jesus loved Barabbas, and he gave his life for him, even if Barabbas never accepted his tremendous gift of love. Read the verses below, and then spend some time talking to God about all you have seen this week through your time in His Word.

John 13:34

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Philippians 2:1-8

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

9. Would you say most Christians have a strong desire to understand God's plan, just like the prophets of the Old Testament? If not, why not? What about you? How diligently do you seek to understand God's plan?
10. Peter calls believers to live holy lives. Why did he say we are to do this? Read Matthew 5:6, to see the promise we are given. What are you doing to obey God's call to holiness?
11. What words of hope are you taking with you from this chapter?