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A Call From Peter

Answering The Call | Part 1 | 1 Peter 1:1-2

INTRODUCTION

The book of 1 Peter was written to believers who were facing persecution. And it's important for us to understand this particular book of the Bible because as time goes on, we as Christians will face more and more persecution and opposition for what we believe. The Scripture that we will be studying will shake your heart, and help you understand what God has for you in the days to come. As believers, we could experience more and more persecution, as the Second Coming of Jesus approaches. Therefore it is absolutely vital that we take this Scripture and use it to prepare our hearts for what could be coming down the road.

KEY POINTS

1. The Servant

You can't read today's key passage without understanding that Peter cast a long shadow of influence and leadership in the early church. Peter's life was all about Jesus! His whole life was wrapped up in Jesus. He lived for Jesus. He spoke and proclaimed Christ. That is what he was all about; from the moment he followed Christ to the moment he would shut his eyes in death, his life was all about Jesus. He lived to serve His Savior, regardless of whatever opposition and persecution he faced. He was the picture of a true servant, and that's an example we should all strive to follow.

2. The Saints

"The Saints" are God's elect. Peter wrote the letter of 1 Peter to God's elect, the chosen. The Greek word, "eklektois" means "chosen." But what is very interesting is that these saints are described not only as chosen, but also they are called exiles. The Greek word here is an interesting word. The Greek word is, "parepidamous" which means an alien, a temporary resident. They are sojourners. Because of persecution from the Jews and Rome, they are temporary residents, or Jews living outside of Jerusalem or Palestine. This description is used to describe sojourners, people who are on a journey. They will walk with Christ all the way to heaven.

It is from this passage that we have the important reminder that this world is not your home! Peter's Letter captures this concept. We have to stop living like this world is our home. We are just passing through to have an influence upon this culture until God calls us home.

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3. The Salutation

There is a very common greeting that Peter says to the saints in his book, "Grace and peace be yours in abundance." The Greek word for Grace is "Charis" which means "God's unmerited favor." The Greek word for Peace is "Iranan." That's where we get the word "Irene." It means "Peace." It literally reads like this in the Koine Greek, "Grace to you and peace be multiplied to you."

Life Application

- God has a plan for your life.
- Knowing who you are in Christ is critical to your spiritual maturity.
- Live to be a blessing to others

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. What can you learn about servanthood from Peter's example that he set in following Jesus?
- 2. How does your perspective on life change knowing this world is not your home?
- 3. What is one practical way you can live to be a blessing to others this week?

A Call To Hope

Answering The Call | Part 2 | 1 Peter 1:3-12

INTRODUCTION

Hope is the belief that circumstances will get better. It's not a wish for things to get better -- it's the actual belief, the knowledge that things will get better, no matter how big or small. Today's key passage from 1 Peter 1 is a call to experience that kind of hope. God wants all of His children to live in hope. He does not want you to live hopelessly in this world. The poorest person is not he or she without a dollar; it is the person who is living without hope. I pray that as we go through this content together, you would get engaged with the hope that God has for you and live a rich, hopefilled life.

KEY POINTS

1. The Author Of Hope

Although hope can be learned, the only way it can be sustained is through the relationship you have with the Author of hope, and that is God. Scripture tells us, if you want your hope to last, you must make sure that you are plugged into the Author of hope. He is God the Father, through Jesus Christ.

2. The Pathway To Hope

The Scripture says, "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Salvation is the key to experiencing this everlasting hope that God wants you to have. This new birth in Christ produces a "living hope." The phrase, "living hope" is in the present active participle, which means it is continuous. This living hope continues to pump through your veins, through your heart, and through your mind. And it comes as a result of your relationship with Jesus Christ, who was resurrected from the dead. Without Him, there is no pathway to hope.

3. The Future Of Hope

The Scripture continues talking about "The Future of Hope." It literally says, "You have an inheritance; your focus is on the future inheritance." The Greek word here is, "Kleronomian." It is an old Greek word describing, "Property received by the heir from the benefactor." This is a picture of God's wealth. He is our benefactor, and we are heirs of what He has. Our inheritance is coming from Him. God owns everything! And we can have hope because of that truth!

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4. The Testing Of Hope

Hope gets tested in life. You will definitely go through testing times in your life. An immature or unbiblical believer might think that once you give your life to Christ, everything will be great. Everything will be roses. You will always have money in your bank account. You won't have any problems. God will make you healthy, wealthy, and extremely wise. But think again! Part of following Jesus is enduring trials and suffering. But we don't have to let these hard times get the best of us because we have hope in Jesus Christ!

5. The Power Of Hope

Hope doesn't have to see it right now. Hope flows out of faith. Hope produces joy. Hope is the indescribable gift that glorifies God in the middle of what you are experiencing. Because you see the purpose of that tribulation, you realize that God is creating a platform for you to shine for His Glory. When you go through pain, sorrow, and challenges in your life, it brings glory and honor to Jesus Christ. People will see your light shine. You don't have to make a big deal out of it. They watch you; they see it, feel it, and sense it. That brings glory and honor to Christ because you are pointing people back to His power!

6. The Revelation Of Hope

We can read the revelation of hope by reading Scripture and seeing with the prophets in the Bible had to say. This is what Peter points us to in today's key passage when he specifically points out the prophets and what they had to say. I would encourage you to go back and do your own study of Scripture, specifically the Old Testament to see what the prophets had to say about hope.

Life Application

- If you need hope, make sure you are a believer.
- If you need hope, ask God to allow it to come alive in you.
- If you need hope, find other believers who are living victoriously, in spite of the odds.
- If you need hope, ask God to give you insight as to how He is using your present situation to make an impact for eternity.
- If you need hope, press on toward the future, refusing to look in the rear-view mirror.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Do you consider yourself a hopeful person? Why or why not?
- 2. How would you define the difference between hope and faith?
- 3. When was a time you chose to have hope even when your circumstances seemed hopeless? How did God come through for you in this situation?

