



# HIGHER AIM

## 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?

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# HIGHER AIM

## 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, hope-filled 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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## A Call To Hope

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

### 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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# HIGHER AIM

## A Call To Hope

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

### 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?

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# HIGHER AIM

## A Call To Holiness

*Answering The Call | Part 3 | 1 Peter 1:13-21*

### INTRODUCTION

Even though Peter might be one of the most “famous” people in the Bible, he was the furthest thing from a goody-two-shoes. In fact, he was probably considered to be a pretty unlikely choice to be one of Jesus’ disciples. Nevertheless, Jesus chose him. After Peter began to follow Christ, he learned what it meant to be a disciple. He wasn’t perfect. In fact, God chose a very imperfect man to lead the first megachurch that ever existed on this planet. After all, Peter was the very man who denied Jesus three times. He even used profanity to deny him the last time! After he repented, God used him to bring thousands of people to faith in Christ. Slowly but surely, this man moved toward purity and holiness. The man who was once full of himself learned to be humble. He could take a rebuke and still keep on following Christ. Years later, this very same man is calling (through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) for us to live differently from the evil culture in which we exist. So right now, we’re going to take a look at what Peter says on how we are to fulfill our calling to be holy.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Choose To Live Out Of Our Living Hope

The only way you will be able to sustain a lifestyle of holiness is to live out of the hope that you have in Christ Jesus. It is out of your relationship with Him that the lifestyle which God wants you to have is produced.

In other words, stop trying to be holy in your own strength. Instead, follow the desire on the inside of your heart as you keep your eyes on Jesus. Allow that to be your focus, not your works. If you try to do holy things, you will be frustrated. You will find yourself being manipulated by your own mind. God wants you to live in accordance with His Word and His Spirit so that you can show others how to be holy only by the power of Christ in you.

#### 2. Come To Attention

To come to attention means to come to a place where your mind is fully alert. And that’s what Peter is calling us to do. When he uses the phrase, “fully sober,” in today’s key text, he is not talking about drunkenness at all. He is talking about focusing your mind. To put it in basic terms, Peter is saying, “I want you to get yourself together. I want you to get serious about walking this path of holiness. Stop playing around! I want you to perfectly get your mind together in this focus of being holy.”

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# HIGHER AIM

## A Call To Holiness

*Answering The Call | Part 3 | 1 Peter 1:13-21*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How would you define “grace” in your own words?
2. What is something about your old life that you need to cut out of your life now as you’re trying to follow Jesus and walk the path of holiness?
3. Do you struggle to prioritize what the Lord thinks over what other people think? Why do you think that is?

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# HIGHER AIM

## A Call To The Bible

*Answering The Call | Part 4 | 1 Peter 1:22-25*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do you regularly read your Bible? If not, what is keeping you from doing so?
2. How has God's Word changed your life?
3. Is there someone in your life who doesn't believe the Bible is true? If so, how can you show the love of Christ to them and pray for them this week?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **A Call To Jesus and The Church - Part 1**

*Answering The Call | Part 5 | 1 Peter 2:1-12*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Is there part of your past that you have yet to turn your back on since you made the decision to follow Jesus? If so, how can you begin to let that go?
2. Would you say that discipleship is important to you at this stage in your walk with Christ? Why or why not?
3. When was a time you looked to another person or to the church instead of looking at Jesus? What was the result of that decision?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **A Call To Jesus and The Church - Part 1**

*Answering The Call | Part 5 | 1 Peter 2:1-12*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How does what the Bible says about you differ from how you see yourself?
2. Is there anything inside your heart that needs to be addressed and realigned with the heart of God?
3. How confident are you that people can tell you're a Christian by the way you act, think, and speak?

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# HIGHER AIM

## A Call To Submission

*Answering The Call | Part 7 | 1 Peter 2:13-25, 1 Peter 3:1-7*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do you find it difficult or easy to live a submissive lifestyle?
2. Which of the ways of living in submission do you need to work in your own life?
3. When was a time you suffered because of your choice to follow Jesus and be obedient to Him? What did you learn from that situation?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **When Is It Right To Resist?**

*Answering The Call | Part 8 | 1 Peter 2:13-17*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. When was a time you witnessed civil disobedience for the sake of Jesus Christ?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt the tug of the Holy Spirit to resist? How did you respond?
3. What can you learn from the people in Scripture who chose to follow God over submitting to the world's demands?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **The Ten B's of Godly Living - Part 1**

*Answering The Call | Part 9 | 1 Peter 4:1-19*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How can being different as a Christian make a difference in the lives of other people?
2. Which of the six aspects of being different comes pretty naturally for you? Which is the most difficult?
3. What is one practical step you can take this week to be different in the way you live your everyday life?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **The Ten B's of Godly Living - Part 2**

*Answering The Call | Part 10 | 1 Peter 4:1-19*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. What is one practical step you can take this week to be more astute?
2. Would you say you have a keen awareness of what is right and wrong according to God's Word? Or do you find yourself easily swayed by the beliefs and behaviors of those closest to you?
3. How is your prayer life right now? Is there something you can do to deepen and strengthen your prayer life?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **The 10 B's Of Godly Living - Part 3**

*Answering The Call | Part 11 | 1 Peter 4:1-19*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. When was a time you tried to love someone even though they got under your skin or frustrated you? What was the outcome of that decision?
2. Would you consider yourself a loving person? A hospitable person? Why or why not?
3. How can you take a step towards hospitality and opening your home to someone this week so that you can open the door for conversation about their life and their relationship with Jesus?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **The 10 B's Of Godly Living - Part 4**

*Answering The Call | Part 12 | 1 Peter 4:1-19*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How are you currently serving others in obedience to Christ?
2. If you're not currently serving in some capacity, what is holding you back from doing so?
3. Which of the ministry gifts that Dr. Dodd spoke of are you strongest in? How can you use those gifts to serve the Lord and minister to others?

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# HIGHER AIM

## **The 10 B's Of Godly Living - Part 5**

*Answering The Call | Part 13 | 1 Peter 4:1-19*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. Do you find it hard to be joyful when your circumstances are difficult? How can you lean into the joy you have in Christ when life is hard?
2. When was an instance where you were surprised by tough times after you became a Christian?
3. Which of the 10 B's of Godly Living do you want to start working on more diligently as you follow Christ?

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