

From Sanctification To Glorification

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We have arrived. We are now going to be closing up First Peter this evening. So, if you will turn with me to First Peter chapter 5. 1 Peter chapter 5 and we will begin in verse 8. 1 Peter chapter 5 beginning with verse 8.

The context that we're going to see here in verse 8 is the **urgency of staying humble**, having humility as a mark as a Christian, that you as a Christian are under the mighty hand of God. Verse six, you are under the mighty hand of God. So let us not invite pride into our lives. Because when we invite pride into our lives, the attacks begin. The attacks begin. Just recall times when you were filled with pride. How many attacks started to happen left and right? Don't allow pride to invite that into your life because the opposite end is that **humility invites grace**. Humility invites grace. James 4:6 says, "But he says, but he giveth more grace." "He giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." There it is. And our daily attitude is we see in John 15:5 where the Lord Jesus said, "For without me you can do nothing." Nothing. Kind of ends it, doesn't it?

So look at verse eight with me, would you? Verse eight. "Be sober. Be vigilant because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour." This is a command with the words **be sober, be vigilant**. I want you to reflect going back to verse six again. The identity marker of a real Christian is found in his **humility** in humbleness because God's purpose is for his presence to be with you. This is about relationship. This is not about fooling around with other things that prevent the Lord's presence in our life. I mentioned to you in the past that in our study last Sunday the idea that God hand is protective. It is protective in so many ways and I gave the illustration how he moves with his hand, his sovereign hand, so that we stay on the right path just like a good physical father would do with his own child. We are had the authority to do that as fathers. What a great privilege. But it's a small picture of God's ultimate authority and how he knows from the beginning to the end. And he wants to redirect, redirect, redirect. But I want you to see the difference here. It's not so much of this kind of redirect, but this kind of redirect. What I mean by that is when we are humble, we get down to our knees.

Somebody reminded me the other day, he was sharing me his Bible. It's worn out, just page after page, just marks, highlights, underline, wrinkles from the tears of certain passages that affected his life in tremendous ways. And he said as somebody reminded him, another saint said, 'Your knees should look like your Bible.' And that's what God wants us to do. You see, the word of God equips us as believers, but it's in **prayer** that we fight it out. We fight out the truths, not in our own strength, but in the mighty hand of God.

So he says, "Be sober." Such **levelheadedness** is important. To respond, not merely react. To respond and not merely react. What do I mean by that? To respond to his word, not to react by your emotions. That's what it means to be sober in this context. When trials or false teachings press in, Titus 2 ought to remind us that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity and patience. Man, talking to you older saints, this is an awesome privilege that you have to share the soundness of your faith, that you're not just moved around by every wind of doctrine, as it says in the book of James, that you are sure about your faith in the word of God and ultimately, namely in the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, it's a command here: be sober. God's purpose again is us to be humbled and let him go ahead of us, not us go ahead of God.

Another way of putting it, the next command is **be vigilant**. This is going back to Matthew 26:41 where Jesus said, "Watch and pray that he enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." That call hasn't changed. The Lord Jesus Christ does not want us to be sleepyheaded. That's the word vigilant. To be **watchful**, to be mindful what's going on in your life and not to just let it come here. Do you understand? You see it from a distance and you see it coming. You see it coming. Lord, Lord, come come ahead of me. Cut ahead. I don't want I don't want this to be here. I want to stay there. That that's the humility that I was talking about in the beginning. That's what humbleness does. It allows it to be staying at a distance. Pride comes quickly and you get crushed. We don't want that. So these are important commands that Peter speaks here.

See, it is central for us to be in **communion** with ultimately the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer. He is our commander. He is the one that made everything victorious in our life. Amen. From the cross all the way to our glorification. John 10:27. This is the Lord Jesus's words. "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me." The command is urgent because it is real. We have a personal enemy that wants to hunt us down. And for us to be active and being vigilant and being sober mind helps us to stay close. The urgency calls us to stay close to the Lord Jesus Christ, to his voice. You see prayer is not all about just asking for a request, is to hear his voice in that. And we say and he's telling you follow me here, follow me there. That's what he's going to direct us to. It's not just hearing his voice. It's following what he says for us to do.

Look down again at the verse where he says, "Because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, walketh about." This adversary of ours is the devil. He makes it clear. To ignore him is to ignore scripture's direct warning. Ignoring him does not make him disappear. Recognizing his reality prepares us to **resist**. Understand that. It's when you recognize him that now you are able to resist. That's when the resisting begins because the enemy is real. He's active and he's going to attack. He's an attack with vicious, vicious power. That word prowl is implying that he has a **strategy** involved and he's going to be continuous about this. He's going to be stealthy about it. Prowling is a stealthy action and he doesn't rest at this strategic stealthy way of getting to you. And much like in Job 1:7, he's roaming the earth looking for an **opening**. He's looking for an opening. You ever see a pack of animals? The lion can't get through until he sees someone veer off. Veer off from the group. He gets that one. He gets you when you're **alone**. He gets you when you're **weak** and you're **vulnerable**. He can't get you when you're in the pack. He can't.

And so this roaring lion wields **intimidation**. He tries to scare you. So get out of the pack. He intimidates you. That's what he does. He threatens you with persecution. 1 Peter 4:12. He accuses you of being unworthy to be part of the local body. And he does it day and night. We find that in Revelation 12:10. He's the accuser day and night. And then he also lies about God's character found in Genesis 3:1-5. These are his intimidating tactics. And the war, by the way, is a **psychological warfare**. He's getting to our heads. He wants to get into our heads to intimidate us so that we scatter away from the believers, ultimately from God's fold. John 10:12.

And he says here, we're going to see later in the text in verse 9 to **stand firm**, be **steadfast in your faith** because trusting the one who is the **Lion of Judah**. If you look at Revelation 5:5, the word Lion there is capitalized with an L. This is the lowercase L. We ultimately do have the Lion of Judah. Amen. And he is infinitely stronger than the counterfeit lion. Amen.

And so when he tries to continue on the verse, seeking whom he may devour, that word seeking is he wants to try to isolate you. He wants you to feel weak in your faith. He wants to distract you from the mission that God has called you into. You see, spiritually, this is the believers detaching themselves from **fellowship** of the local church, **scripture and prayer**. It's really not many things, but they're essential things. Amen. So, his goal is total destruction of your spiritual life in those areas. And he wants to destroy your faith. He wants to destroy your testimony. He wants to destroy your relationships, whether you're in a family context or in the church context. And he wants to kill your joy. **Know your enemy**. He wants us to know that these intimidation tactics have been going on for since he since the time of beginning till now and will continue on. Don't let him cause you to fear because that's what his goal is: trying to make you afraid. Don't let him consume what God has in place for you in your life. Because you see, he does not want just partial surrender. His aim is total surrender to him. He's the exact opposite of God in the wrong sense of the term.

Still, still we must **resist**. says there in verse 9, steadfast in the faith, readiness to resist the temptation the moment it appears, the moment it appears. And that takes vigilance, doesn't it? And when you see him appear to cause these intimidations, you find a way to **flee**. James 4:7 puts that very clearly. You flee. You flee to who? To God. He's your only protector, to him. And the Lord Jesus' word to Peter Luke 22:31-32, he says, "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail." So Jesus is praying for us to not fail. And he reminds us that he will ultimately protect us if we remind ourselves that he is ever **interceding** for us to not let the enemy take root in our lives.

And how can we do that? Just practically speaking, there are three ways. With our **eyes**, with our **ears**, and with our **mouths**. Let me just touch on the eyes. Psalm 101:3 says this, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. I hate the work of them that turn aside and shall not cleave to me." So, you don't you just put blinders on. I think pastor watch gave that illustrations: blinders. Next one, ears. **Test everything**. Test everything, every teaching against the word of God. Acts 17:11, be a **Berean**. Be a Berean. And your mouth speaks of this in Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying or building up, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." You have that awesome privilege. Amen. To pouring grace into people's life, not to take, but to give. Because you can find out very clearly if someone's off with their words when they're very careless with their words. A careless

disposition with the words reveals a **careless heart**. Careless heart. Because the mouth, the ear, the eyes are all rooted in the heart.

What about some more practical ways to stay on alert? Psalm 119:105 is very clear. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." **Daily reading of the word of God** equips you with **discernment**. What is discernment? It's the ability to make wise, sound judgment, to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil, truth and error, and to recognize ultimately God's will. It's not simply again an emotion. This is a deep process of meditating on the word of God to be able to perceive things through the lens of God. I mentioned to you wisdom is seeing things through **God's perspective**, not our perspective. And if you do that with daily reading of scripture, you'll begin to see more of more of God's perspective and more and more of God's will in your life. And then you'll be able to apply that knowledge because the Holy Spirit uses the word of God. Amen. So even that you have to depend on him to guide you with understanding the scriptures. Again, depending on his word, depending on his spirit. And then 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to **pray continually** because we must communicate to him to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to keep the line clear. That's the best communication that we can ever have. Amen. And to keep our hearts sensitive, to keep it **humble**, because whenever you're praying, you're you're having humble a humble disposition. "God, I I need help in this area. God, I need wisdom in this area. God, I I need I need strength in this area. God, I need to know how to love this person." Like, do you love them? It it comes with that heart disposition.

And you know, when you do that, the encouraging reality when this takes place in your life, this is what starts to happen. Romans 16:20 says this, "And the God of peace shall **bruise Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." What happens is you begin to see the devil's power be less and less and less. His wars of fear intimidation less and less and less. And you see God's power, God's sovereignty arise in your life where this text says it very clearly. I'll just repeat it again. "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." Just a it's just a short time we're here. And in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. That's amazing truth promise that we can be firm on. Amen.

Now verse 9, verse 9 says this. "Whom resist, **steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." Whom resist calls for a active deliberate **opposition to the devil** identified in verse eight. And this command is immediate. It's immediate. It's not delayed. The idea is to impress on you **be proactive**. We just see these commands repeated. This is the third time we see it. **Resist**. It's not optional. You're going to have to resist him day in and day out. Day in and day out because that's the first step for God to take control. You see, James 4:7 says this, "**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**" So, the idea is you got to submit to God first. Submission is important. We've been talking about themes of submission. That's an act of humility, isn't it? But it's worthy because God is good. Amen. It's worthy to be submitted unto him. And the devil try to trick you and saying, "Don't submit to him. His character is this. His character is that." And you and you say, "No, the word of God says he is truthful. He is honest. He is altogether lovely." You see, you combat it with scripture just like our Lord Jesus Christ did. He said it multiple times, "Devil, **it is written**. It is written. It is written. It is written." That is our offense. It's the word of God.

So, let's look down with me. The next phrase, steadfast in the faith, knowing that knowing that what? Knowing that you have **promises to secure your feet from slipping**, that you can plant your feet, that God is not someone that's going to waver with his promise. And so you have done what I've shared in verse eight, you will have this faith that is on firm foundation. So steadfast in the faith knowing that faith is rooted in **God's character**. So read and read and read upon God's character. Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering for he is faithful that promised." He is faithful. Amen. He is faithful. So we can be faithful. So common thing I've been sharing with you. We don't have anything unless it was God's character. Amen. We can anchor ourselves in the **finished work of Christ** as well. We stand on these truths where it says in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. I'm just going to take verse one. You can say this. "I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you. Which also you have received wherein ye stand." We stand on the gospel and what is at the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We can stand on the gospel. It is good news.

And we know God controls the length and the limit of every trial. 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with that temptation also make a way to escape that you may be able to bear it." Love that.

"The same afflictions or sufferings are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." Our struggles are **not isolated**. No matter what the devil tells you to say, don't listen to him. You're never isolated. He will try to isolate you psychologically, but physically that's not true. Physically, the church is going to be together. And that's how we should always have the attitude. should never let the lies of the devil make us isolated in our minds. Because knowing others are fighting the same battle, it nurtures within us this **compassion**. Because that means that all of you right now without question are going through some kind of trial right now. Wherever you are right now, you are in some kind of trial trial. So we can all help each other out. We're never isolated within those parameters, are we?

So verses 10 to 11, I'll read them together. "But the God of **all grace**, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, established, strengthened, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Here we see in verse 10 the just the position of the **eternal with the temporal**. The eternal with the temporal. You see that and it starts off with "but the God of all grace." But the God of all grace, his grace meets every need. Because that word **all**, it goes from our salvation to our sanctification to our daily needs of endurance. Hebrews 4:16 is our promise. Saints, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." We have an **unlimited source of grace** at the throne of grace. And knowing his character that he's steady in all circumstances. Nothing is too hard for God to give us that anchor that he's going to give us what we need. When the devil is taking and taking and taking for himself, God is giving, giving, giving. That's what he does. And you know, I looked it up and in the sense it's **all-encompassing** this grace. What do I mean by that? Three time zones, three distinct moments in our lives. The first one is in the past that we were given **saving grace** and justification. He rescued us when we were helpless. Romans 5:8. "But God commended his love toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Amen. And then he gives us grace

in the present, **sustaining grace** in our sanctification, enabling us to live holy lives, to be able to endure. And that's that Hebrews 4:16. You can go to the throne of grace anytime, any day. That's how we're sanctified is in his grace. And then and then we have grace that he gives us for the future. And that is our **complete grace in glorification**. It'll be perfected and established forever. That's what this passage is going to show us. Because in Philippians 1:6 is our promise. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." What a great God we have. Amen.

The God of all grace. He shapes us in our daily walk. Our daily walk. He gives us the confidence to go through any trial that comes our way. And he says that it's going to happen just for a **little while** because ultimately you have grace that is eternal. You have an **endless supply** of this grace from past, present, and future. That's humbling, isn't it? that we have this kind of resource available that no one outside of Christianity does. No one outside of Christ has this kind of resources. You know, in economics, I'm a business person. They have to work with scarce resources. That's economics. You have a limited resources and we got to just work as best as possible with that. That's not us, brethren. We have an **unlimited source**. Unlimited source. So then we can be bold because we know God is going to be able to answer and give us in his timing. We have that assurance and that delight that he's going to give as a good heavenly father that he is and that he's going to help us to **persevere** in our walk in the trials of our daily lives because the same grace that saved you will sustain you and help you through the glorification. He guarantees you will **finish well**. Always remember that.

And then it says, look with me, "who hath called us unto its **eternal glory by Christ Jesus**." This call is **irrevocable**. Can't be changed. Romans 11:29 says, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." What he has started, he will finish it. Philippians 1:16. The phrase **by Christ Jesus** reminds us the promise is secured by Jesus Christ's finished work. The Lord Jesus Christ finished work. Amen. And it's not based on our performance. It was by Christ Jesus. By Christ Jesus.

And then "after that, you have **suffered a little while**." Look down. That phrase, this perspective keeps our hearts anchored to the **temporary trials** of life for the eternal stretch of our life before us. James 1:2-4 encourage us as saints to **count all trials**. All trials. every single one of them with **joy**. That's hard to do sometimes, isn't it? I got to admit, in the flesh, it's not easy. But that's where **faith takes over**. That's where you entrust in God without wavering. And you go, "I I I believe this, Lord. May that continue to be imparted into me my life when I look at trials and I get better at this. And I could count it more as joy than sorrow, right?" This is what matures us. So **joy is a maturing work**. It's a paradox, right? It's like, wait, how can you have joy in this? Well, let me explain who my God is. Amen. It's an opportunity to give testimony in the right sense of of the word.

So we get four promises here, four verbs. **make you perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you**. Let's just go at each one. **Perfect**. It means to restore. It means to mend what was damaged. Psalm 23:3 puts it this way. "He restores my soul." That's so good, isn't it? Everything about your life, he's going to **restore spiritually**. Any hurts that you experienced, he's going to restore with joy. He's going to restore all those things that the devil and the world and the flesh poses on us. He instead of the Lord taking I gave you that illustration, he gives us a restored soul. And so

much of a reminder that he wants to take care of the primary thing, our soul. You said the devil cannot attack our soul. But you know what? The physical part does affect our soul, doesn't it? But it's only temporary. Those things that we get affected in the physical, it's all temporary affecting our soul. And so he secures our soul, he fills in all those things for all eternity that your soul is secure and will be restored ultimately. That's such a assuring promise. He takes care of the emotional and the spiritual which are essentially the most important rather than our flesh. Amen.

And what about **establish**? The word it means secure. It means to be **unshakable**. The idea is making you unshakable. So Luke 22:32, the Lord Jesus to Peter says, "When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." He anchors our faith so that doubts do not destroy us. Psalm 4:2 reminds us, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings." You see, a lot of our lives, it's it's it's it's always this path, isn't it, where we can feel like things are just slipping, slipping here, slipping there. And it's God that puts us on **firm ground** so we can keep moving. we can keep moving our life. Do you ever feel that way? Like you're just you're slipping. "Oh, I don't know if I'm going to make this." It's not you that's going to make it. It's going to be God that helps you to make it. And that's the insurance that's assurance in Psalm 4:2. He will anchor your faith so that no doubt can affect you.

And then let's talk about that word **strengthen**. So God **infuses his power** in your life. Ephesians 3:16, "with power through his spirit in your inner being." So what happens is in our trials we often feel drained of our vitality, doesn't it? Trials do weigh us down. And what we need is not the world to replenish us. Not to fill ourselves with entertainment, not to fill us out with gimmickry, but rather to replenish us with his persevering power. Amen. We want his power. Isaiah 40:29-31. "He giveth power to the faint."

Settle you. The next word. Suffering can feel destabilizing, but God uses it to **root us deeper**. In Colossians 2:6-7 says this, "as he as ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him. Verse seven, **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith** as he had been taught abounding therein with thanksgiving." See your faith whether you believe it or not is to be more and more rooted more and more rooted more settled in. That's the idea. You know a tree it doesn't quite settle in until the roots really get deep into the ground. And that's what God is doing in your life. He's settling you. Do you Do you notice that in your life? Do you notice that things are just settling in in parts of your lives and that should give you that assurance? He's going to do that just with his timing. His timing things will settle out. You'll start getting more and more clarity in your trials. Have you noticed that that that the trials come and at the beginning it's like "I don't know why this is coming." But the as more comes you get more and more clarity why he is doing this. He He wants your faith to be settled. He's dealing with you at a spiritual level. And he wants you to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus our Lord. And it's through the teaching he says to be taught. You see, that's when you're growing. You're seeing the word of God being fleshed out in your life. And you're going, "Oh man, I I I'm actually experiencing this in my walk with him." And that's what he wants to do. He wants those word of God to be settled. No more wavering. You might have wavered here, but that's not my goal. As God the Father, he wants you to be settled in in the truths of scripture.

So verse 11 says, verse 11 says this, "to him be **glory and dominion forever and ever**. Amen." That that is the idea that we are to continually lift our gaze from the devil and to gaze continually

upon him. Upon him. And the more we do that, the living God who cares for you in verse seven, who called you to his eternal glory in verse 10 would help you in having a more **godward orientation** in your daily walk. That's what he wants.

It's a weighty **doxology**. This is a doxology. Peter points us to God himself. He assigns all. He says this is his power, his glory, his dominion. And he invites us to have this whole guarded, wholehearted agreement with an amen with that posture. **So be it** in our lives because this verse helps us to be steady. This helps us to keep us on our ground because God ultimately has all control of all things and unending authority in our lives now and forever and ever.

And then he goes into verses 12, 13, and 14. I'm going to keep this part short. It's kind of his last remarks and he wants to just share some people that has affected him in his life. I love that about Peter and not only Peter does this, but the apostle Paul does this. So the so Peter writes to believers again, he started with the scattering and with the suffering. He's reminding them that they are in Christ. And he closes out this letter to sum up his purpose statement. He says, "I have written." I have written all this. And he says briefly, but this brief letter, I don't know about you, but it's encouraging has been encouraging to me. I hope it has been encouraging to you and that you would have seen in your time with this study that it has just reassured you of the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and what he has for you in your life. And so he shares in verse in verse 12 says my faithful brother **Sylvanus** that's that's the same brother that was with with Paul and Silas. So he was also with Peter and he says he was faithful. The idea he was **trustworthy**. He was a trustworthy servant and it underscores his reliability. Don't you want someone like that in your life? When someone just just it's there for you, trustworthy, just reliable. He says that "I testify that this is the **true grace of God**." you know, stamps the authenticity on everything that he said that this is God's grace supplied to you, brethren. It's a grace. It's not of law. Opposite of you got to do this, you got to do. He's he's been showing us this letter. It's all of God. It's all of his grace. And we just need to be encouraged by that. And then verse 13, in a single sentence, he turns a simple greeting into a living demonstration that **God's elect are one**. Wherever they are gathered, the elect are one. And then he shares **Mark's** presence. This is John Mark, the one that wrote the book and it's in commentaries that the Apostle Peter helped him write that gospel. And he gives an affectionate "**my son Marcus**." That's the one that's the parallels in 1 Timothy 1:12 where he calls Timothy my true son in the faith. To Peter, it was John Mark, highlighting the **mentoring relationship** that Apostle Peter has built in his life. And I got to say that that is Pastor Walrip in my life. He has been a mentor in my life and he has we have been knitted together over these short few months. Feels like it I wanted to go longer but this is the kind of relationship that a sound pastor should have and I hope I continue that as the charge from yesterday in 2 Timothy 2:2.

And then verse 14, lastly, the final sentence, he reminds believers to embody **affectionate, tangible love** toward one another and to rest in the all comprehensive **peace** granted to every united brother and sister in Christ to reach every believer that you see there all of you. And this echoes this idea in this in this last sentence that there is to be **harmony with God and then with one another**. It's a **vertical and a horizontal** relationship he has been bringing about in this letter. And he says that this is the way that he has intended for Apostle Peter to write to encourages us. And he ends with "with the **peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus**." And he gives another amen to that. And this is, I believe, a reminder when Peter when the Lord Jesus

said this in John 14:27, "**Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you.**" You see, God in Christ gives us this peace that removes the hostility I have with with God. That we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**. And believers now can extend that same peace horizontally with believers. And he invites us to have peace to all. It's not just a mere I'm just signing off. It's just a way to sign off things. No, this is a final sentence that kind of just brings clarity and one just one final last words to these believers. And he wants to shape that into their lives to to to peace, to have peace with one another. And he wants this church to sustain itself in this kind of peace that Christ gives to us through all the trials, through all the restlessness, through all the difficulties in life that in the end that there is **true peace for you in Christ Jesus**. That's a wonderful promise, isn't it? And may this closing remark be a help to you as you continue on with the walk that you have been set on the course that Christ will finish it because he promised us. Amen.

Let's pray. Father, thank you so much for the words the Apostle Peter. He gives us so many truths, so many things to keep us anchored and to be mature and to be full of love and to be filled with faithfulness and just so many things to equip us with the word. Help us to not only be **readers of your but doers of your word**, Lord. Set more into our lives these areas, Lord, that we lack in, and we only lack it because we don't depend upon you more. So help us, Father, to do more of that, depend upon you so that we can truly experience more of your grace in our lives, be more filled with joy, so that we can share our testimony with our lost loved ones and that Lord that we can make a difference Lord in the areas that you are calling us to make a difference. Really the great difference, the only real great difference that someone can really experience for eternity is a **changed heart**. And that means to be a **born again believer**. That's really what we are called to preach and to go and share with others. Father, I pray that that would be the case with our local body here. help my brothers and sisters to just be grateful for all these opportunities that they have in store if they will just completely trust in you. So we thank you and we will give you all the glory and all the honor for ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.