

## A Living Hope - week 6 - 1 Peter 4:1-11

Peter writes to the church, scattered across modern Turkey, as they face persecution and desperately struggle to live a life of faithfulness to the gospel.

Last week, Caleb Farrow led us through the end of 1 Peter 3 - suffering for the sake of the Kingdom is not in vain - 3:21-22 - **you have been saved, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, and your life is now forever marked by your death to this world in baptism, and being raised to new life and the receipt of a clear 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.**

Peter tells them in their day as they face Roman and Jewish persecution → no matter what happens in this life, Christ has defeated all powers past, present and future with his life, death, and resurrection ⇒ **and his life is now yours!**

My hope, your hope, and their hope is secure, and Kept in Heaven until the day King Jesus returns.

### Exegesis of 1 Peter 4:1-11

#### V.1 *Since Christ suffered in the flesh*

- There is one who has gone before that knows what it is like to suffer to the uttermost.
- Since he suffered, and paid the penalty for you, he suffered for you...
- Since he did that, how you respond matters. “Meh”...or “oh my goodness, now what would you have of me, for me, from me Lord?”
  - Peter’s direction: *Arm yourselves with the same way of thinking - with the attitude, with the very mind of Christ...*
  - Why? *“For whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin...”*

Does Peter mean here that those who are in Christ are sinless?

No, absolutely not.

#### V.2 *“for the rest of the time in the flesh”* (this life) *no longer for human passions but for the will of God.*

- If you suffer against the desires of the flesh, let that be evidence of your salvation.
- If you struggle to live in this life as a child of God, let your struggle be evidence of your having died to the world.
- GRUDEM: *whoever has suffered for doing right, and has still gone on obeying God in spite of the suffering it involved, has made a clear break with sin. Following through on a decision to obey God even when it will mean physical suffering has a morally strengthening effect on our lives: it commits us more firmly than ever before to a pattern of action where obedience is even more important than our desire to avoid pain.*

### V.3 *“for the time that is past suffices...”*

- You lived long enough in the way of the past...
- You’ve lived that life. Seen all that it promises, and seen it desperately wanting.

### V.4-6 *“they are surprised when you do not join them.”*

- Why wouldn’t you join us??
- Look at all this success, look at all of this fun, look at how great this feels...”
  
- *But they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*
- Peter desperately longs for Christians to know that the day of standing before the throne and giving account for your allegiance will come...
  - So would you *“live in the Spirit the way God does.”*

### V.7-11 *because “the end of all things is at hand.”*

**READ 1 Peter 4:7-11**

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### **Peter lays out the following in these few verses:**

- ⇒ Three Commitments to the King
- ⇒ Two Costs along the Way
- ⇒ One Central focus for Your Life

### **3 Commitments to the King**

#### **1. Resolve that You are At War**

- “Arm yourselves...”
- This is not a cakewalk. Warfare language is used throughout the Bible to describe the conflict between Jesus and his enemy, and the battleground is the hearts and minds of men and women.
- “With the mind of Christ” → the “same way of thinking”
- As a Christian, your heart has been made new.
- You are a son/daughter of God.
- But your mind is still ruttred with old thought patterns.
  
- Romans 12:2 - *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
- Your mind has been shaped by this world and your old habits.
- And You and I both are in need of transformation into people who long to follow the way of Jesus.
- Would you, as Theologian Kent Hughes challenges, **become a person of Resolve?**

## 2. Commit to leave old passions behind

- Peter makes it clear that the old way of living is behind you...**enough is enough.**
- God intends to use you as a messenger, an ambassador, and instrument for his glory and for the good of the world.
- Jesus suffered for you that you might no longer live according to the flesh.
- If you are here, stuck in old patterns, remember to be encouraged by your struggle (it is evidence of your salvation)...
  - i. But as Jesus told the woman at his feet: ***“Go now and leave your life of sin.”***

## 3. Commit to live for the will of God

- **Throughout the letter - 1:14** *“as obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who has called you is holy, you also be holy in all your **conduct.**”*
- 2:11-12 *“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.*
- According to Peter, and to Jesus, the way you live as sons/daughters matters.
  - i. It matters to God.
  - ii. It matters for you.
  - iii. And it matters to those who are watching.
- But living for the Will of God is completely countercultural. We need one another, and we need the Spirit’s help/counsel/strength.

But it is going to cost you to commit to these three things...

## 2 Costs of Following Jesus

### 1. Your Life will be alarming

- **John Mark Comer:** “Most people want the life of Jesus (abundant life, peace, commitment to God) but many do not want to adopt the lifestyle of Jesus.”
- If you want to know the fruit that Jesus experienced in this life, then your life must look increasingly like his.
- And if you choose to do things like tithe, bring your first fruits, welcome strangers as Jesus did, swim against the cultural currents of our day...
  - i. Then its going to be surprising to those who don’t.
  - ii. Old friends and old crowds are not going to understand.
  - iii. And you may lose some of them.
- But that’s not quite all ...

### 2. They will “Malign you.”

- If they don’t abandon you altogether, Peter tells them they will malign you.
- They will speak of you with the goal of wounding you and tearing you down
- Don’t be surprised, defamation will come.

## 1 Central Focus for Your Life

The end is coming (v.7) - be self controlled, sober minded, and ...

1. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins. How do we love?
  - Show hospitality to one another without grumbling
  - Use the gifts given to you primarily for the sake of serving others
  - Steward your life as God's son/daughter...
  - So that in "everything" → God may be glorified.
  
  - **The central focus of your life should be this → live your life for the sake of others, and the glory of God, according to the grace, love, and mercy of God that has been shown to you.**
  
- **You have been born again to a living hope.**
  - **Resolve to live like that were true, leaving the old way behind, pressing on in Christ, no matter what people say about you // with the central focus of your life being others-focused ...for the Glory of God.**

For to him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.