

I Peter 4:7-11

3.27.24

⁷The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober minded for prayer. ⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since **love covers a multitude of sins.**^[a] ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

I. Be ready because the end is in sight.

⁷The end of all things is near.

--Jesus' return is imminent

Matt 24:37-39 As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. ³⁸For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. ³⁹They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be.

Rom 13:12 The night is nearly over, and the day is near; so, let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

I Thess 5:2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

Cor 15:51-53 Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality.

I Thess 4:15-17 For we say this to you by a word from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout,^[a] with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

--There is undeniable cultural proof that we are in the end times

II Tim 3:1-5 But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, ⁴ traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people.

II. Since the end is near, believers must respond appropriately.

A. --Pray about everything!

be alert and sober minded for prayer.

-- Pray with the right mind by being alert

-- Pray with the right mind by being sober minded

B. --Love one another

⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since **love covers a multitude of sins.**⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

--True love is to be constant

--True love will be forgiving

Colossians 3:¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Matt 18:²¹ Then Peter approached him and asked, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?"

²² "I tell you, not as many as seven," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven.

Why forgive?

Providence

God is up to something

Burdening

Anger is heavy

Wedging

My sin of un-forgiveness drives a wedge between me and the Lord

Belief

Forgiveness says "I trust God" with the results

"Followship"

I can forgive because I am forgiven

--True love will be hospitable without complaining

C. --Serve one another

¹⁰ Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

I Cor 12:7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good; ¹¹ One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.

A quick-reference guide to spiritual gifts

by [Jesse Johnson](#)

Service ([Romans 12:7](#)): Meeting the physical and financial needs of other believers. Seeing things that need to be done in the church, and doing them.

Teaching ([Romans 12:7](#); [1 Corinthians 12:28](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#)): Instructing people in Jesus' teachings. This is a basic form of discipleship, and is part of the great commission ([Matthew 28:20](#)), but is also a requirement for elders ([1 Timothy 3:2](#)).

Exhortation ([Romans 12:8](#)): Encouraging and comforting other Christians. Compelling others to live a life devoted to Christ, and using your own words to encourage others to grow spiritually.

Giving ([Romans 12:8](#)): Giving away your financial resources to the ministry of the church and to missions.

Leadership ([Romans 12:8](#)): The ability to manage and direct different ministries within the church. This is done well when done with diligence ([1 Thessalonians 5:12](#)).

Mercy ([Romans 12:8](#)): A person who is prone to compassion for those in need, and that compassion then manifests itself in a practical desire to meet those needs.

Wisdom ([1 Corinthians 12:8](#)): A person who skillfully applies godly counsel to practical situations. It is one thing to know Proverbs, it is another to see how they practically apply to the messy situations of life, and that is where this person is needed in the church.

Knowledge ([1 Corinthians 12:8](#)): The ability to understand theology and the meaning of Scripture.

Faith ([1 Corinthians 12:9](#)): A persisting and unwavering trust in God's promises, despite difficult situations.

Discernment ([1 Corinthians 12:10](#)): The ability to recognize and warn against bad doctrine and counterfeit gospels.

Helps ([1 Corinthians 12:28](#)): Similar to the gift of giving, a person gifted in this area spends time assisting those in need, and encouraging others as they serve the body of Christ.

Administration ([1 Corinthians 12:28](#)): Similar to leadership, this gift refers not necessarily to the person who is directing ministries, but rather to the people who execute various ministries under the leadership of others.

Evangelism ([Ephesians 4:11](#)): A person gifted at explaining the gospel to non-believers, and seeing them come to faith. They are bold in their faith, and seem to have opportunities that the Lord blesses.

Pastors ([Ephesians 4:11](#)): An elder-qualified person who leads, shepherds, and preaches to the church. Used by the Lord to build and grow his body on earth.

The following gifts are described in the New Testament as existing in the foundational age of the church, and ceased in the general time period around the completion of the New Testament. They were used to authenticate the Apostles before completion of Scripture.

Prophecy ([Romans 12:6](#); [1 Corinthians 12:10](#), [28](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#)): The ability to speak God's word with power and boldness, accompanied by supernatural revelation of future events not already revealed in the Bible.

Apostles ([1 Corinthians 12:28](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#)): A person set aside by God and given temporary authority in the church over the development of doctrine and the reception of Scripture.

Miracles ([1 Corinthians 12:10](#), [28](#)): The ability to alter, suspend, or reverse the laws of nature to attest to the glory of God in a specific situation. This ability was given to the Apostles in [Luke 9:1](#), [10:17-19](#), and seen again in the earlier parts of Acts. It authenticated the true Apostles ([2 Corinthians 12:11](#)).

Healing ([1 Corinthians 12:9](#), [28](#)): The ability to heal diseases. Like miracles, this was given by Jesus to the Apostles, and seems to have ceased by the time Paul wrote 2 Timothy (cf. [2 Timothy 4:11](#), [Hebrews 2:4](#)).

Languages and their interpretation ([1 Corinthians 12:10](#), [28](#)): The ability to speak in a language that the speaker did not know, and be understood by those who do speak it. Seen in the various stages of the development of the church (Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, John the Baptist disciples).

Close:

"The end of all things is near" The Apostle Peter