

1. What did the text mean to the biblical audience? Structure diagram 1 Peter 1:22-25

Having **purified** your souls

by your obedience to the truth

for a sincere brotherly love,

love one another **earnestly from a pure heart,**

²³ since you have been born again,

not of **perishable seed**

but of **imperishable,**

through the living and abiding word of God;

²⁴ for "All flesh **is like grass**

and all its glory **like the flower** of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord **remains forever.**"

And this word is the **good news** that was preached to you.

Truths From Cross References:

Having purified your souls – to have moral virtue

James 4:8-10

1 John 3:3-10

How do we purify our souls?

God purifies our souls when we respond to the gospel with obedient faith, and as we keep obeying His word through the Holy Spirit, our lives become increasingly characterized by holy, sincere love for others.

Sincere brotherly love

Sincere = without hypocrisy

What does brotherly look like?

Romans 12:9-21

Earnestly – continuously, eagerly, without ceasing

1 Timothy 1:3-7

Earnest loves continues when brothers and sisters are?

Born again = caused to be born again

John 3:1-8

James 1:18 brought us forth = give birth to

Not of perishable seed – not mortal, not lasting seed, temporary

Yes by imperishable seed -immortal, lasting forever, incorruptible, everlasting (physical or spiritual seed?)

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 (physical or spiritual?)

Through the living abiding word of God

Luke 8:4-15

Isaiah 40:9-31

Isaiah 52:7-10

Flesh withers and falls – Word of God is eternal

Matthew 24:35

Psalms 119:89

Questions to use when preparing a Bible Study to uncover a passage's main theological point.

1. God-focused questions:

- What does this verse show about who God is (His character, attributes, names, actions)?
- What does it show about what God loves, hates, desires, commands, or promises?
- How does this verse fit with God's overall purpose in the Bible's big story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation)?

2. Gospel / Christ questions:

- How does this verse connect to the person and work of Christ (who He is, what He did, what He is doing)?
- What problem of sin, brokenness, or spiritual need does this verse highlight, that the gospel answers?
- Does this verse point forward to Christ, flow out of Christ's work, or describe life in Christ?

3. Human-condition questions:

- What does this verse teach about people: our nature, identity, temptations, or tendencies?
- What "fallen condition" or heart issue (belief, desire, fear, idol) is exposed here?
- How does this verse show who I am "in Adam" (apart from God) or "in Christ" (redeemed)?

4. Redemptive-story / context questions:

- Where are we in the Bible's storyline (before the law, under the law, in the church, new creation)?
- How does the surrounding context (paragraph, chapter, book) clarify the main point of this verse?
- If this verse were missing from the Bible, what key truth would be lost?

5. Main-point questions:

Use these to force yourself to summarize the core theology in one sentence.

- If I had to state the author's main point in one sentence, what would it be?
- Which words, images, or repeated ideas carry the most weight in this verse?
- Is the verse mainly describing something (narrative) or prescribing something (command)? What truth about God and His ways does that reveal?

A helpful test: "This verse mainly teaches that God is _____ and therefore His people must / can _____."

6. Response / implication / application questions:

These don't change the meaning, but they help you see why the theological point matters.

- If this verse is true, what should I think differently about God, myself, or the world?
- What should I now believe, desire, or hope for because of this truth?
- What concrete obedience, repentance, or comfort flows from this verse's main truth?
- Is there a command to obey in this passage?
- Is there an example to follow or avoid in this passage?
- Is there a reality to affirm in this passage?
- If so, how should that reality impact my life? (desires, thoughts, beliefs, actions)
- How can I praise Him through this scripture?
- How can I confess my sins on the basis of this scripture?
- If this is really true, what harmful emotions, what wrong behavior or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?
- What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?
- Why is God telling me this today?
- How could my life be different if I were absolutely sure of every one of God's promises that He gave me in this scripture?
- What are some of the challenges or roadblocks that make applying/obeying difficult? (sinful desires, temptations, struggles, wrong ideas, the culture we live in, etc.)
- What would it specifically look like if I lived this out?