

1 Peter



Author: *Peter*



Date: *Between A.D. 60 to 64*



Audience: *Scattered believers
in modern day
western Asia Minor*



Written in: *Greek as Πέτρος
meaning 'rock'*

Introduction & Purpose of 1 Peter

Written by the apostle Peter to encourage believers, this letter addresses Christians facing growing hostility and social ostracism for their faith. Peter sensed persecution was coming and wrote to prepare and call them to live holy and have steadfast hope even amid suffering, grounding their endurance in the certainty of Christ's death, resurrection, and promised return. Instead of running away from society, believers should live out Jesus' example and run to others in love.

About the Author

Originally a fisherman named Simon, Peter was called by Jesus to be a "fisher of men" and was a leading figure among the twelve disciples. Walking closely with Jesus, Peter witnessed His miracles, teachings, and the Transfiguration, yet also denied Christ three times before the crucifixion.

Restored by the risen Jesus and called to "feed His sheep," Peter became a bold, Spirit-filled leader of the early church. Tradition holds that he was martyred during Nero's reign in Rome by being crucified upside down.

Structure & Themes of 1 Peter

1 Peter moves through four parts:

1. *Praise for Salvation (1:3–12)*: Grounds believers in living hope.
2. *Called to Holiness (1:13–2:10)*: Exhorts God's chosen people to holy living.
3. *Winsome Witness (2:11–4:19)*: Calls believers to honorable conduct and righteous suffering under authority.
4. *Living in Community (5:1–11)*: Elders shepherd; all are called to humility and trust.

Suffering runs through nearly every chapter, with Christ as the ultimate example of suffering that leads to glory. Peter weaves in hope, exile in a hostile world, and God's sustaining grace, closing with his purpose: "*testifying that this is the true grace of God*" (5:12).

1 Peter helps us KNOW, LIVE, & LOVE like Jesus

1 Peter helps us **KNOW Jesus** as the suffering Savior whose unjust death purchased our living hope. Peter points again and again to Christ's own suffering as the pattern and the proof that God can be trusted, even when life feels hard and unfair. Knowing Jesus means anchoring our hope in what He has already secured for us, not in what we can see right now.

1 Peter teaches us to **LIVE like Jesus** by enduring hardship with grace instead of retaliation. Just as Christ suffered unjustly without returning evil for evil, we're called to honorable conduct even when we're misunderstood, mocked, or mistreated. Living like Jesus means choosing faithful endurance over self-protection or bitterness.

1 Peter calls us to **LOVE like Jesus** by building a community marked by humility, hospitality, and care for one another, while also living such good lives among outsiders that they see our hope and give glory to God. Loving like Jesus means our suffering and our service become the very things that point others to Him. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it, *"Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God."*

Notable Verses in 1 Peter

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. - 1 Peter 2:9

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. - 1 Peter 3:17

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. - 1 Peter 4:8

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Resources to Dive Deep into 1 Peter

- 1 Peter Series - The Bible Project
- 1 Peter – Karen H. Jobes (Baker Exegetical Commentary)
- 1 Peter – Wayne Grudem (Tyndale New Testament Commentary)
- 1 Peter – Thomas R. Schreiner (New American Commentary)

Question to Ponder from 1 Peter

Where am I responding to unfair treatment with self-protection or bitterness instead of the patient, hope-filled endurance Christ modeled for me?