



This devotional journal is private and belongs to:

How To Use This Devotional Journal

Journaling is a powerful discipline to help you grow in your relationship with God. When we take the time to write down the Word of God with personal application, it takes root in our hearts. In ancient times with Israel, it was the responsibility of each king to write down a copy of God's laws and apply it in his heart so that he would stay humble and make wise decisions.

In Deuteronomy 17:18-20 (NIV) we read, "When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. ¹⁹ It is to be with him, and he is to **read it** all the days of his life so that he may **learn to revere** the LORD his God and **follow carefully** all the words of this law and these decrees ²⁰ and **not consider himself better** than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel."

This devotional has wide margins and plenty of room for you to highlight and make your own notes for personal application. Let God begin to work on your life and then let it overflow to your family and friends. I have added, Life Application, Preacher's Outline and John MacArthur commentaries to enrich your thinking and topical headings to help you to organize your thoughts.

Asking questions is a great way to go deeper in your Bible Study. The goal is to go deeper in the Word of God and strengthen your relationship with Jesus. **READ** one passage each day, **REFLECT** on what you have read, and then **RESPOND** by writing a personal prayer that will correlate to the passage you read. Use Saturday as a day to catch up if you need it. Sunday is designed to be a day to worship as a church and discuss any highlights of your week with your family and friends. Remember, knowledge isn't the goal, but rather life application of God's Word that blesses our family, church, and community.

In the back of this booklet, you will find extra note pages (31-33), favorite verses (34) and a prayer journal on page 35. If you are like me, it is too easy to forget all that God has done and is doing. By keeping a record of your thankfulness and how God answers your prayers, you will see God at work. If you dare to keep a discipline of prayer for 30 days, I believe you will see God bring you on an amazing spiritual journey to His presence and joy.

Pastor Ed Turley
Cornerstone Church of Poway

1 Peter 1

Read: 1 Peter 1:1-5

The Hope Of Eternal Life

¹ This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to **God's chosen people** who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² God the Father **knew you** and **chose** you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been **cleansed** by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace. ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. **1 Peter 1:1-5 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

In what sense are God's people strangers in this world?

How does Peter describe God's process of saving us?

What do you learn about God the Father, the Holy Spirit and the Son?

How does Peter describe our faith?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Read 1 Peter 1:6-8

Tested & Purified By Trials

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 Peter 1:6-8 (NLT2)

Reflect:

How does this perspective help you deal with the past or present sufferings?

What are you going through right now that God may be using to strengthen your faith?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary: The apostle Peter wrote this letter to encourage believers who would likely face trials and persecution under Emperor Nero. During most of the first century, Christians were not hunted down and killed throughout the Roman Empire. They could, however, expect social and economic persecution from three main sources: the Romans, the Jews, and their own families. All would very likely be misunderstood; some would be harassed; a few would be tortured and even put to death. However, they became the target of persecution when they refused to worship the emperor as a god, refused to worship at pagan temples (so business for these moneymaking enterprises dropped wherever Christianity took hold), or exposed and rejected the horrible immorality of pagan culture.

Peter wanted to warn them about what lay ahead, and they needed his encouraging words to help them face opposition. This letter is still helpful for any Christians facing trials. Many Christians around the world are living under governments more repressive than the Roman Empire of the first century. Christians everywhere are subject to misunderstanding, ridicule, and even harassment by unbelieving friends, employers, and family members. None of us is exempt from catastrophe, pain, illness, and death—trials that, like persecution, make us lean heavily on God's grace.

Notes:

Read 1 Peter 1:8-14

Gracious Salvation

⁸ **You love him** even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the **salvation of your souls**. ¹⁰ This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this **gracious salvation** prepared for you. ¹¹ They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about **Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward**. ¹² They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this **Good News** has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen. ¹³ So think clearly and exercise **self-control**. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. **1 Peter 1:8-14 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

How did you come to place your faith in Jesus for your salvation?

Exercising self-control is not easy, especially if you don't know the reason "why." Peter gives us the reason; we exercise self-control because our focus is looking forward to our gracious salvation in Jesus. We are saved by His grace and now we live for Him. Christians are not perfect, but we keep ourselves from going backwards by moving forward. Where is your biggest challenge to exercise self-control? What steps will help you to move forward?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Read 1 Peter 1:15-21

A Call To Holy Living

¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”

¹⁷ And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as “foreigners in the land.” ¹⁸ For you know that God paid a **ransom** to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. ¹⁹ It was **the precious blood of Christ**, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him as **your ransom** long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days. ²¹ Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. **1 Peter 1:15-21 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

How does Peter’s call to holiness challenge you at home, work, church, or in your neighborhood?

What ransom was paid for your life? How does that motivate you?

When did you place your faith in Jesus? How has your life changed since then?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary: 1:14-16 The God of Israel and of the Christian church is holy—he sets the standard for morality. Unlike the Roman gods, he is not warlike, adulterous, or spiteful. Unlike the gods of the pagan cults popular in the first century, he is not bloodthirsty or promiscuous. He is a God of mercy and justice who cares personally for each of his followers. Our holy God expects us to imitate him by following his high moral standards and by being both merciful and just.

1:14-16 Peter's words mean that all parts of our lives and character should be in the process of becoming conformed, both inwardly and outwardly, to God's standards. After people commit their lives to Christ, they sometimes still feel a pull back to their old ways. Peter tells us to be like our heavenly Father—holy in everything we do. Holiness means being totally devoted or dedicated to God, set aside for his special use and set apart from sin and its influence. We're to be set apart and different, not blending in with the crowd, yet not being different just for the sake of being different. God's qualities in our lives make us different. Our focus and priorities must be his. All this is in direct contrast to our old ways (1:14). We cannot become holy on our own, but God gives us his Holy Spirit to help us obey and to give us power to overcome sin. Don't use the excuse that you can't help slipping into sin. Rely on God's power to free you from sin's grip.

Notes:

Read 1 Peter 1:22-23

Godly Love

²² You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. ²³ For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

1 Peter 1:22-23 (NLT2)

Reflect:

How does being cleansed from our sin motivate us to love others?

What does it mean to show sincere love and love each other deeply?

How can you pursue your relationships better?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary: 1:22 "Sincere love" involves selfless giving; a self-centered person can't truly love. God's love and forgiveness free you to take your eyes off yourselves and to meet others' needs. By sacrificing his life, Christ showed that he truly loves you. Now you can love others by following his example and giving of yourself sacrificially.

Notes:

1 Peter 2

Read: 1 Peter 1:24-25 & 1 Peter 2:1-3

Crave For The Word

²⁴ As the Scriptures say, “People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. ²⁵ But the word of the Lord remains forever.” And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. **1 Peter 1:24-25 (NLT2)**

¹ So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness. **1 Peter 2:1-3 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

Which is the greatest challenge for you in 2:1?

How much do you crave the Word of God?

What will you do to grow in your study of God’s Word?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Read: 1 Peter 2:4-10

We Are Living Stones For God's House

⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who **reject** him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." ⁸ And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ "Once you had **no identity** as a people; now you are **God's people**. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." **1 Peter 2:4-10 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

What does it mean to you to be part of this "Spiritual House"?

In what ways is Christ a stone that causes men to stumble?

By what various names does Peter call Christians in this passage?

What do you learn about your new identity? How does verse 10 put everything into perspective?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary: 2:6-8 No doubt Peter often thought of Jesus' words to him right after he confessed that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God": "You are Peter... and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it" (Matthew 16:16, 18). What is the stone that really counts in the building of the church? Peter answers: Christ himself. Jesus Christ is called "the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." Some will stumble over Christ because they reject him or refuse to believe that he is who he says he is. But Psalm 118:22 says that "the stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone," the most important part of God's building, the church. People who refuse to believe in Christ have made the greatest mistake of their lives. They have stumbled over the one person who could save them and give meaning to their lives, and they have fallen into God's hands for judgment.

2:9 Christians sometimes speak of "the priesthood of all believers." In Old Testament times, people did not approach God directly. A priest acted as intermediary between God and sinful human beings. With Christ's victory on the cross, that pattern changed. Now we can come directly into God's presence without fear (Hebrews 4:16), and we are given the responsibility of bringing others to him also (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). When we are united with Christ as members of his body, we join in his priestly work of reconciling God and people.

Notes:

Read 1 Peter 2:11-18

Uncompromising Faith

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. **1 Peter 2:11-12 (NLT2)**

Yield To Authority For The Lords Sake

¹³ For the Lord’s sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴ or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. ¹⁵ It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. ¹⁸ You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. **1 Peter 2:13-18 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

Where do you need to create some distance to guard against temptation?

What does Peter mean by, “respect all human authority?”

When it comes to submitting to authority, where do you draw the line?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary: 2:13-17 When Peter told his readers to respect all human authority, he was speaking of the Roman Empire under Nero, a notoriously cruel tyrant. Obviously he was not telling believers to compromise their consciences; as Peter had told the high priest years earlier, "We must obey God rather than any human authority" (Acts 5:29). But in most aspects of daily life, it was possible and desirable for Christians to live according to the law of their land. Today, some Christians live in freedom while others live under repressive governments. All are commanded to cooperate with the rulers as far as conscience will allow. We are to do this "for the Lord's sake"—so that his Good News and his people will be respected. If we are to be persecuted, it should be for obeying God, not for breaking moral or civil laws. For more about the Christian's relationship to government, see the note on Romans 13:1ff.

Notes:

Read 1 Peter 2:19-25

Seek God In Our Suffering

¹⁹ For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. ²⁰ Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. ²¹ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. **1 Peter 2:19-25 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

What is your reaction to what Peter says about suffering?

How can Christ's example help you when you are mistreated? [1 Peter 2:22-23]

In Peter's day, persecution and slavery made submission to authority difficult. What conditions make it difficult today?

What should we do when peoples legal rights are being violated by authorities gone bad?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

1 Peter 3

Read 1 Peter 3:1-12

Faith That Blesses Our Relationships

¹ In the same way, you **wives must accept the authority of your husbands**. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over ² by observing your pure and reverent lives. ³ Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. ⁴ You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. ⁵ This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands. ⁶ For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do. **1 Peter 3:1-6 (NLT2)**

Be Understanding And Give Honor

⁷ In the same way, you **husbands must give honor to your wives**. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered. ⁸ Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. ¹⁰ For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. ¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. ¹² The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil."

1 Peter 3:7-12 (NLT2)

Reflect:

What does it mean to cooperate with a spouse out of love and respect?

How can God use the spouse of an unbeliever?

What are some ways a husband can be considerate to his wife?

What does it look like to “live with understanding”?

What is the consequence if husbands don’t show love and understanding to their wives?

What does “harmony” look like in marriage?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

Suffering For Doing Good

¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must **worship Christ** as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your **Christian hope**, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! ¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. ¹⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison—²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. **1 Peter 3:13-22 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

What is the reason for the hope you have?

In this passage, why can a Christian be confident during suffering?

When was the last time you had an opportunity to talk to an unbeliever about your faith?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Bible Commentary - 1 & 2 Peter and Jude.

3:19-20 **In which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison.**^{NRSV} The words *in which also* form a break in thought here and refer back to "in the spirit" in the previous verse. The meaning of making a *proclamation to the spirits in prison* is not completely clear, mainly because the word translated "spirits" (pneumata) can be used to refer to human spirits, angels, or demons (the singular pneuma is also used to refer to God's Holy Spirit). The passage further indicates that these "spirits in prison" are those **who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water.**^{NIV} This passage has been tackled by many scholars over the years and given a variety of interpretations. Three main questions arise: (1) Who were the "spirits" to whom Christ made his proclamation? (2) When did Christ make this proclamation? (3) What was the content of this proclamation? **Following are the main interpretations of Peter's words:**

(1) Some explain that between Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, he went to the realm of the dead, to hell or hades. There he preached to "the spirits in prison"—meaning either all the people who lived before him who had died and gone to hell, or the fallen angels who had sinned by marrying human women before the Flood (a view highly dependent on apocryphal literature). The content of Christ's proclamation may have been to offer the sinful people a second chance at salvation (this is most unlikely because nowhere in Scripture does God offer a "second chance"), or to tell the sinful people and/or fallen angels that their condemnation was final and eternal. Still others say that Christ was preaching to all those who had repented before they died in the Flood. They had been "in prison" awaiting their release by Christ into heaven. They say that Christ, between his death and resurrection, announced salvation to God's faithful followers who had been waiting for their salvation during the whole Old Testament era.

(2) During Noah's building of the ark (120 years), Christ's "spirit" was in Noah preaching to all the unbelieving people. First Peter 1:11 refers to the "Spirit of Christ" residing in the Old Testament prophets, and 2 Peter 2:5 describes Noah as "a herald of righteousness" (nrsv). This view takes Christ's reference to Noah literally and holds that the "spirits" were humans (rather than angels or demons). Christ spoke through Noah to the people for 120 years as Noah was building the ark (Genesis 6:3). During that time, God was waiting patiently for any to repent of their sins. But none did. These unbelievers on earth were the "spirits in prison" who were imprisoned by their sin, or they were the souls of the evil human race of that day that are now "in prison," hades (they died long ago in the Flood), awaiting God's final judgment at the end of the age. Those who consider this to

be the correct meaning of Peter's words consider that Noah and his family were a righteous minority among a huge majority of evil people. Just as Noah faced unjust persecution, so Peter's readers were also facing unjust persecution. Just as Noah had no converts, they might not either. Just as Noah knew that judgment would come soon, so Peter's readers knew that God would soon judge the world. Ultimately, as Noah and his family were saved from the floodwaters, so those who believe will be saved from eternal death.

(3) Between Christ's death and resurrection, or after Christ's ascension, he preached the triumph of his resurrection to the fallen angels. The verb "made a proclamation" most likely means "proclaiming" or "heralding," and not preaching the gospel (as it is used in [4:6](#)). It is likely that Christ was simply making the announcement of his finished work on the cross and, by so doing, declaring his victory. (See [Colossians 2:15](#), where Paul discusses disarming and making public display of demonic forces.) The "prison" was an abyss near heaven, a kind of "storage place" for the evil angels. His declaration confirmed the testimonies of Enoch and Noah. By doing this, it confirmed the condemnation of those who had refused to believe, while assuring the salvation of Noah and believers. The spirits are fallen angels typified by those who instigated gross immorality in the days of Noah—such are the "sons of God" spoken of in [Genesis 6:2](#). Many scholars favor this view because [2 Peter 2:4-5](#) and [Jude 6](#) link "the angels that sinned" with the judgment of the Flood by God in the days of Noah. According to these verses in 2 Peter, these angels of God were cast into hell, literally Tartarus, a place of confinement prior to their judgment. Tartarus, therefore, is the prison mentioned here. Sometime after Christ was "made alive in the spirit" he made a proclamation to these fallen angels. (See discussion of Tartarus in [2 Peter 2:4](#).)

Therefore, to answer the three key questions noted above: the fallen angels were the spirits; the time of the proclamation is not known for certain, but either it was between Jesus' death and resurrection or at the time of his ascension; the content of Christ's message was to proclaim his victory to the fallen angels.

Notes:

1 Peter 4

Read 1 Peter 4:1-7

Prepare For Battle:

Arm Yourself With The Purpose Of God

¹ So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must **arm yourselves** with the **same attitude** he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. ² You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. **1 Peter 4:1-2 (NLT2)**

Say No To Destructive Things

³ You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. ⁴ Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. ⁵ But remember that they will have to face God, who will judge everyone, both the living and the dead. ⁶ That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit. ⁷ The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. **1 Peter 4:3-7 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

How can identifying with Jesus' suffering help us be prepared to battle against our sinful desires?

How can suffering change a person's life for the better?

Have you seen this to be true in your life?

How does your lifestyle differ from that of your non-Christian friends?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Preacher's Outline And Sermon Bible - Commentary: (4:1) Self-Denial— Suffering: arm yourself with the mind of Christ. What does this mean? First, it means to die to self; to deny oneself. Jesus Christ denied Himself to the ultimate degree: He suffered for us in the flesh. Jesus Christ lived a pure and righteous life and men persecuted Him for it. But He bore the humiliation, ridicule, mockery, beatings, and even death in order to please God and to save men. In the flesh He did not want to suffer. He had a flesh just like ours, the flesh of humanity; therefore, His flesh wanted and desired to escape the abuse of men (cp. Hebrews 2:14-15). But Jesus Christ denied Himself and went ahead and did the will of God. The exhortation is strong: "Now, you do the same thing. Arm yourself with the mind of Christ."

Notes:

Life Application New Testament Commentary.

4:4 When a person becomes a Christian, sometimes his or her lifestyle changes drastically. This was especially true for first-century believers who had come out of the morally corrupt pagan world. Many of Peter's readers were Jewish Christians, but, as 4:3 indicates, many also had come from a pagan background. Former Jews would have at least led a morally upright life, while former pagans had been involved in the activities that Peter had just listed (4:3). Christians no longer desire to join their pagan friends in the wicked things they do. These friends had sought pleasure by denying themselves nothing. Together, they did it all. When the Christians stopped, their friends not only are very surprised, but they also say evil things. This describes the reaction of people who love darkness when they become confronted by the light. A believer's refusal to participate in an activity is a silent condemnation of that activity. Unbelievers then react with hostility, often because they want to justify their actions or silence their own consciences.

Notes:

Read: 1 Peter 4:8-11

Arm Yourself With Love And Service

⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. ¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. **1 Peter 4:8-11 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

What principles does Peter set for us in this passage?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application New Testament Commentary: 4:10 Each person has received one or more **spiritual gifts** from **God**—a talent or ability empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to be used in the ministry of the church. Spiritual gifts help God’s people to serve and love one another (4:8) and continue the work of spreading the gospel. Some of this **great variety** of gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31; and Ephesians 4:11-12—these lists are different and are by no means exhaustive. When believers humbly recognize their partnership in the body of Christ, their gifts can be used effectively.

Notes:

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

Faith On Trial

¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. ¹⁴ So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? ¹⁸ And also, "If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?" ¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

1 Peter 4:12-19 (NLT2)

Reflect:

What false assumption does Peter set straight in verse 12 and 13?

How is being glad in your suffering different from just enduring suffering?

What affect has past suffering had on your commitment to God?

How are we to evaluate our sufferings? V.15

How can you be an encouragement to someone this week who is going through a difficult time?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

The MacArthur Study Bible Commentary: 4:12 When the city of Rome burned, the Romans believed that their emperor, Nero, had set the city on fire, probably because of his incredible lust to build. In order to build more, he had to destroy what already existed. The Romans were totally devastated. Their culture, in a sense, went down with the city. All the religious elements of their life were destroyed—their great temples, shrines, and even their household idols were burned up. This had great religious implications because it made them believe that their deities had been unable to deal with this conflagration and were also victims of it. The people were homeless and hopeless. Many had been killed. Their bitter resentment was severe, so Nero realized that he had to redirect the hostility. The emperor's chosen scapegoat was the Christians, who were already hated because they were associated with Jews, and because they were seen as being hostile to the Roman culture. Nero spread the word quickly that the Christians had set the fires. As a result, a vicious persecution against Christians began, and soon spread throughout the Roman Empire.

Notes:

Life Application Study Bible Commentary: 4:17, 18 This refers not to final judgment but to God's refining discipline (Hebrews 12:7). God often allows believers to sin and then experience the consequences. He does this for several reasons: (1) to show us our potential for sinning, (2) to encourage us to turn from sin and more constantly depend on him, (3) to prepare us to face other, even stronger temptations in the future, and (4) to help us stay faithful and keep on trusting him. If believers need earthly discipline (judgment) from God, how much more will unbelievers receive it? If the righteous are barely saved (only because of God's mercy), what chance have those who reject Christ? Life Application Study Bible.

4:19 Everywhere the Bible counsels that we trust God—in good times and bad, during sunny skies and thunderclouds, when we have a pocket full of change and a pocket full of sawdust. How does trust work? (1) *Trust overcomes fear*. Genuine trust in God says, "Whatever mess I'm in, my heavenly Father will lead me." (2) *Trust overcomes depression*. No matter how overwhelming the situation or how low it makes you feel, God can draw you back to the light. (3) *Trust overcomes hate*. When careless or cruel people hurt you, sometimes irreparably, you can hate forever or you can trust God, but you can't do both. God is there to steady even the worst situation—always with a promise, always with hope. Commit your life to him for safekeeping. Rely on him when you face your worst circumstances.

Notes:

1 Peter 5:1-7

Read: 1 Peter 5:1-7

Lead By Example

¹ And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ² Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³ Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴ And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. ⁵ In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 Peter 5:1-7 (NLT2)

Reflect:

Why do you think God refers to His people as sheep?

Why do we need godly leaders in our lives?

What attitude does God want us to have as leaders?

What is one of the unruliest groups you have had to shepherd?

How has pride affected you in the past?

How can we serve each other better?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary:

5:5 Both young and old can benefit from Peter's instructions. Pride often keeps older people from trying to understand young people and keeps young people from listening to those who are older. Peter told both young and old to be humble and to serve each other. Young men should follow the leadership of older men, who should lead by example. Respect those who are older than you, listen to those younger than you, and be humble enough to admit that you can learn from others.

5:7 Carrying your worries, stresses, and daily struggles by yourself shows that you have not trusted God fully with your life. It takes humility, however, to recognize that God cares, to admit your need, and to let others in God's family help you. Sometimes we think that struggles caused by our own sin and foolishness are not God's concern. But when we turn to God in repentance, he will bear the weight even of those struggles. Letting God have your anxieties calls for action, not passivity. Don't submit to circumstances but to the Lord, who controls circumstances.

Notes:

Read 1 Peter 5:8-14

Stand Firm

⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. ¹⁰ In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. ¹¹ All power to him forever! Amen. ¹² I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace. ¹³ Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet each other with Christian love. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ. **1 Peter 5:8-14 (NLT2)**

Reflect:

What does Peter say about this spiritual enemy?

How are we to guard against the enemy?

How can you stand firm in God's grace?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Life Application Study Bible Commentary:

5:8, 9 Lions attack sick, young, or straggling animals; they choose victims who are alone or not alert. Peter warns us to watch out for Satan when we are suffering or being persecuted. If you are feeling alone, weak, helpless, and cut off from other believers, or if you are so focused on your troubles that you forget to watch for danger, those are the times when you are especially vulnerable to Satan's attacks. During times of suffering, seek other Christians for support. Keep your eyes on Christ, and resist the devil. Then, says James, "he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Notes:

Our Purpose And Vision

When you come to Cornerstone, you will find a contemporary style of music with words that direct our hearts to celebration and **WORSHIP** our great God and Savior. You will hear relevant teachings from God's Word with a life application every Sunday. As we **CONNECT** with each other, it is our vision to go beyond the superficial and encourage each other to take our next right step with God. It is our aspiration to help people **GROW** into maturity through personal application of God's Word. We desire to lead the way with selfless generosity and **SERVE** as a way of life. It is our purpose to **SHARE** God's message of forgiveness through Jesus Christ and help people find and follow Jesus.

Service Times:

On Campus Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 & 11:00AM

Online Sunday Service: 9:15AM > <https://www.youtube.com/c/cornerstonepoway>

Weekly Sermon Notes> <https://www.cornerstonepoway.com/sermons>

Sermon Notes Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:00-8:00PM

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