



9/25/25

The more time I spend in God's word and the closer I grow to Him, I realize the incredible role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is so quiet like a whisper, and yet we can find Him everywhere we look. He shows up in 1 Peter 1:12... in just one quick statement that changes everything... The truth of Jesus was revealed to us through the prophets and those who preach the good news "by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven." His job is always to point us to Jesus, our Savior. I pray that you and I will allow the Holy Spirit to fill us and lead us today. When He's in control, we have no regrets.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Peter 1:13-25

In the first part of this chapter, Peter explained the living hope I have as a believer in Christ as I wait to experience the imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance being prepared for me... and that God even uses my trials to grow my faith... that the Holy Spirit wrote it all down through the prophets so that I could have an inexpressible joy filled with glory, obtaining the result of my faith, the salvation of my soul. With all that in mind, Peter gives me instruction on how I respond to this hope that I have... I think the bottom line statement for everything to come is... He's in charge.

Vs. 13 ~ Therefore, in light of the living hope given to me, I need to prepare my mind for action and I need to be soberminded, with my hope not on the temporary pleasures of this world, but on the enormity of grace I'm going to experience when Jesus returns and takes me home.

Why do I need to prepare my mind for action? What action? The action of opposition. The opposition that comes from my own flesh and the opposition that comes from the world. My flesh hates God and the world hates God. They are not apathetic. They have a visceral disgust for Jesus and for those who stand with Jesus. I need to prepare my mind for the action of loving my enemy and not reacting by attacking. That takes preparation and thinking differently. It takes planning for arguments that will come against me... not so that I'm ready to retaliate,

but so that I'm ready to follow Jesus' example and love.

I need to be soberminded, understanding that this world is not my home. It is broken. I'm an exile here. If I expect it to be my home, I'll act as though God failed me when things don't go well. But if I understand that this world is broken and I look forward to the grace that will be poured out on me when Jesus returns for me, I will set my hope on the promise of eternity with Him rather than an expectation of comfort in the here and now.

Vs. 14-17 ~ To be soberminded and active with the Lord is to be obedient to Him and to refuse to act like the world acts. I can't be true to the Lord AND to my selfish passions at the same time. One has to go.

As I release the passions of my former ignorance, the things I used to celebrate but now avoid, I turn to modeling myself after Jesus. He is holy, set apart, sacred... and He calls me to be like Him... holy, set apart, sacred. To be holy is to be pure in thoughts, pure in actions. This is the obedience I'm called to because God's word tells me to be holy as He is holy. If I ask Him, "Why should I be holy?" The answer is, "Because I said so." That tells me something important... He's in charge.

Everything I'm called to do starts with that premise. He's in charge...

- Set my hope fully on the grace to come. I have no control over how much grace He gives or when it comes (though it's more than I could ever hope for). He's in charge... and I can trust Him. This is not wishful thinking hope. It's absolute certainty hope. It's not a matter of if but when. He decides the when. He has already promised what will be.*
- Don't conform to my former passions but conform to His holiness. He's in charge.*
- Conduct myself with fear throughout the time of my stay on this temporary earth. This place is not my home. Conduct myself with fear... reverence... respect. Why? He's in charge. He judges me impartially according to my deeds... all my actions done in faith or in rebellion. He does not pick and choose favorites. His expectations are not based on how He feels that day or who He likes better... He's a good Father who I can trust and call on as my own... because He is my own. He's my Dad and He's in charge.*

Vs. 18-19 ~ He's my Father. He's in charge. And He's good. He doesn't tell me to give up my former passions so that He can withhold good from me, but to protect me and lavish good on me. He has ransomed me from the futile ways I inherited from my ancestors. And it cost Him everything. My ransom was not about money. There is no amount of money in the world that could cover the debt of my sin. This debt cost Jesus His life, with His precious sacrificial blood poured out for me. He deserves to be in charge.

Vs. 20-21 ~ Jesus, who gave His life as my ransom, was known before the foundation of the world. Prophecies from Genesis 3 and beyond all pointed to Him. But now He's been revealed to

me so that I can believe in God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory. Because of Jesus, I have hope in the Father. Without Jesus, I would have no hope. Yet another reason why He should be in charge.

Vs. 21-25 ~ How does God want me to live as I give up my former passions and pursue holiness with Him because He has purified my soul by the blood of Jesus? Love others earnestly from a pure heart. The evidence of my purified soul is found in how I treat others... loving them wholeheartedly as I am wholeheartedly loved.

This is a hard lesson for me. My motivation for loving others isn't based on how they treat me. It's based on how God has treated me... even to the point that He gave me new life in Him while I was running around in ignorant selfish passions, not even considering His sacrifice. The inward work of my obedience to the truth of who God is was that Jesus' sacrifice purified my soul. The outward flow of a purified soul is genuine love for others. The motivation of that love is my salvation... that I have been born again of seed that cannot die, because God's word cannot die. It is living and active.

"All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." That's why I can love. That's why God is in charge. That's why I can be holy. That's why I can have hope. That's why my soul is purified and can't be tainted. God is in charge forever, so what He says can't be undone. This is what was preached to me so that I could be saved, and this is true.

Lord, I start by bowing to You in reverent awe and acknowledging Your authority in my life. I let Your gift of salvation be my motivation to give up my selfish passions and to replace them with genuine love for You and for others. It all comes from You. It is a wonderful thing to have You in charge. It's my hope, my safety, and my salvation. Amen.