



12/2/25

Our Women's Christmas event, The Beginning, is just a few days away, and we are so excited for all that God has in store. As we prepare, we're still looking for a few helping hands—both for the event itself and for the cookies we'll be providing for the Giving Tree gifts.

We'd be so grateful if you would be able to help...

For the Women's Event - We have various needs including help with decorations, food, greeting, and tear down.

*For Giving Tree Christmas cookies - we still need about **59 dozen** Christmas cookies and 6 people to help assemble the cookie boxes after the Women's Event is over.*

If you would be available to serve in any way, we would so deeply appreciate your help. Here are the 2 Sign Up Genius links.

1. Women's Christmas Event:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BAFA929A1FB6-60533147-wm2025>
2. Giving Tree Christmas Cookies:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BAFA929A1FB6-60471527-christmas>

Thank you so much for considering this!

*Merry Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Peter 4:1-11

Continuing with the integrity and faith of Noah vs. the corruption of the rest of the people of his generation, I look at 1 Peter 4 and see that the dichotomy between those who walk with the Lord and those who don't is just as severe as it was in the time of Noah... and in the time of Peter... and today. God calls me to walk closely with Him... and that IS going to look different to

the rest of the world. If the difference is not noticed, I'm probably not walking that closely with the Lord. What does 1 Peter 4 teach me about walking with God?

Vs. 1-2 ~ To walk with God is to think like Jesus. And that involves suffering in the flesh. That doesn't sound fun, and in the moment, suffering is never fun. But it's worth it. Peter tells me, "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God." Jesus suffered in the flesh for me by emptying Himself of His glory and majesty, and by being beaten, mocked, and crucified. That wasn't fun for Him at all. But He said I was worth it. I'm called to think like Jesus.

I do what I do... suffer in the flesh... because I think what I think... that Jesus suffered for me... because I want what I want... to look like Jesus and to live for His will rather than the desires of my human passions... because I worship Jesus.

Vs. 3 ~ "For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry." Why is the time for living this way in the past now? Because Jesus died to set me free from these things. These all promise a good time, but they deliver brokenness and heartache. That's why God doesn't want me to indulge my human passions. He knows the devastation they cause. He doesn't say no just to say no. He cares.

Vs. 4-5 ~ "With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." The people in Noah's time probably thought he was nuts. People today often look down on believers. They think we're missing out on all the fun. They don't just say, "Live and let live." They mock those who aren't like them. God never mocks anyone. He doesn't mock those who disregard Him. He died for them, that they might have eternal life... even while they mocked Him.

At some point, God will call all of us to account, whether we are alive in Christ or still the walking dead without Him... and those who rejected God and maligned His people for following His example will stand before the highest judge... God Himself. They will have to answer for rejecting Him. There is no higher authority than God!

Vs. 6 ~ I would think God would be ready to bring the hammer down on those who reject Him. Yes, He WILL bring judgment, but His heart is for salvation and restoration. Peter says, "For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does." Even among those who have rejected Jesus, the gospel continues to be preached... that perhaps some might hear and believe and confess Jesus as Lord... and be saved.

Vs. 7-11 ~ "The end of all things is at hand." Do I live like that? Or do I act as though His

return is so far off that I just go about doing what feels good in the moment? Do I live as though this life on earth is supposed to be my heaven? I need to "be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of my prayers." I need to think and pray and live with an eternal perspective and Jesus on the throne.

How does that affect my prayers? If I'm thinking only for today, my prayers will only have today in mind. They won't consider the big picture. My prayers will focus on the "why" and not the "who". But if I'm thinking with an eternal perspective, and if I'm not letting my flesh control me but the Spirit control me, I will pray "Not my will, but Yours be done... I trust You, Lord." If I'm focused on the why, I will pray as though God owes me something when it is I who owe Him everything... and yet He freely gives me His grace... the generosity of His love.

So, if I'm going to be sober-minded and self-controlled, walking in Jesus' steps and thinking like Him and even suffering in the flesh like He did, what will that look like?

- Above all, I will keep loving others because love covers a multitude of sins... and Jesus loves me so much that He covered all my sins. Walking with Jesus always starts with love because He IS love.*
- I will show hospitality to others without grumbling about it. Jesus willingly laid down His life for me and He doesn't resent me for it. If I know that I deserve nothing but have been given everything, what would cause me to grumble? If I'm grumbling about caring for others, I must not see the depravity of my sin and the depth of my need. O Lord, I know You don't want me to live in shame. That only drives me from You. But to live in gratitude is to be able to give to others in honor of You.*
- I will use the gifts You've given me to serve others, not to lord it over others. Jesus never held His gifts over me as a bargaining tool. He gave sacrificially so that I could have life. O Lord, please help me to give from what You give me. It is by Your grace alone that I even have anything to give. So if I speak, let me speak Your words. And if I serve, let me serve faithfully in Your strength, as You faithfully served me even when it cost You everything.*

I would imagine that Noah was a kind, generous, loving, giving man as he walked with God. When he and his family got on the ark and God closed the door, I believe it grieved both God and Noah. To truly live for Him and lay down the flesh is to care about the souls of those who don't walk with Him... to pray for them... to love them... but to stand wholeheartedly with God... no compromise.

O Lord, please help me never to forget WHY I serve You. It is because of WHO You are and all You've done for me.