



3/3/26

You know, one of the things about my husband is that he LOVES to share his food with me. I think he literally enjoys it more when he can give me a bite so that I can enjoy it with him. You know who else loves to share? THE LORD!!! He loves to share His precious and great promises. He loves to share His holiness with us, His joy, His peace, His love. I think He literally enjoys it more when He can see us enjoying His incredible gifts for us. That's pretty amazing.

Blessings,
Jonna

1 Peter 1:13-25

Uh oh... I see right away that there's a "therefore" at the beginning of this passage. What's the therefore there for in this letter from Peter, written to believers who had been scattered from their homes because of their faith in Jesus? Before I look for the answer about that, I think it's really important that I see their circumstances through the Lord's eyes. Yes, they were being "dispersed" because of their faith... and that seems horrible. But God was with them the whole time... and He was strengthening them and using these horrible circumstances to spread the gospel. Truly, from an eternal perspective, what is more important? My comfort? Or the opportunity to see people be saved from eternal separation from God, knowing that my discomfort is only temporary? My flesh wants to say, "GIVE ME THE COMFORT!!!" But my spirit knows that the greatest treasure is yet to come... and as I heard Tim say something in a message that rocked my world close to 17 years ago, "It's not about my comfort. It's my King!"

Vs. 13 ~ "Therefore..." because you have a living hope in Jesus, and because you have an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance being guarded for you in heaven as you are being guarded through faith while still on earth, and because God uses (and never wastes) your suffering to test and strengthen your faith which will bring you praise, honor, and glory at the coming of Jesus, and because your salvation is absolutely secure through your faith and His work, and because the prophets spoke and wrote what the Holy Spirit revealed about your salvation... "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Why do I need to prepare my mind for action? The Greek says, "Gird up the loins of your mind." Always be ready to set your mind on the truth. Truly, when facing the brokenness of this world, if my mind is expecting comfort, I will not be ready for the trials. In 1 Peter 4:12, Peter said, "Beloved, do not be SURPRISED at the fiery trials when they come upon you to test you as though something strange were happening to you." If my mind is not prepared, I will be surprised... and I will not treat it like a good surprise. 😬

Why do I need to be sober-minded? That word means to be watchful... pay attention. Again, if I'm not paying attention... if I'm expecting comfort... I will not handle the "surprise" well. And the thing is, God has already shown me over and over again in scripture what Jesus said is true, "In Me you have peace; in this world you WILL have trouble, but take heart. I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). No trouble should be a surprise.

So... if I'm not to be surprised, but actually EXPECT trouble to come, how do I not just brace myself and hide in a corner until it goes away??? It's all about where I place my hope. I need to "set my hope FULLY on the grace that WILL be brought to me at the revelation of Jesus Christ." My hope CANNOT be in the temporary comfort of today. If it is, I will accuse God of so many things that aren't true. My hope MUST be in what He has absolutely promised... the eternal comfort, pleasure, joy, and peace of eternity with Him. As long as my hope is in today, I will NOT have what I can have in vs. 8, to "rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory." O Lord, let my joy never be expressible!!!

Vs. 14-16 ~ "As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

If I'm going to choose obedience to the Lord, I cannot also stay conformed to the passions of my former IGNORANCE! It was ignorance that made me think the passions of my flesh would ever satisfy my soul! Obedience to the Lord is what truly satisfies.

Obedience to the Lord makes me holy... because obedience to Him draws me closer to Him so that I become more and more like Him. He WANTS me to share in the thing that is most precious and pure about His heart... His holiness. Jerry Bridges said this about the holiness of God, "Holiness is the perfection of all [God's] other attributes. His power is holy power, His mercy is holy mercy, His wisdom is holy wisdom. It is His holiness more than any other attribute that makes Him worthy of our praise."

Hebrews 12 tells me that God is training me so that I can share in His holiness. What a beautiful gift! There is nothing unsatisfying about being holy. There is no regret in being holy. God wants to share with me His most precious gifts!!!

Vs. 17-19 ~ "And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were

ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."

This gives me so much hope!!! My past does not define me. I am a child of the Almighty, the Most High! I call on Him as FATHER... He is not distant from me. He holds me close as His child. He ransomed me from the futile, empty manner of life I inherited from generations before. I praise God that He ransomed my children from all the futile things they inherited from ME! He paid my debt of sin that I could not pay, and He nailed it to the cross. He paid my debt with His own blood. If He had paid it with money, I would have no hope. Money dies when I die. But the blood of Christ lives on forever. My debt will never be mine again. Praise His name.

So... since this Father of mine judges impartially according to my deeds... WAIT! Does that mean I have to earn His payment? No. This means that God impartially looks at my heart and sees where I'm truly following Him and where I need His discipline. Hebrews 12 tells me that He disciplines those He loves. His goal for me is to share His holiness and experience the peaceful fruit of righteousness in my life on earth. God is not a magic genie or a servant who comes to my beck and call. Yes, He WILL take me home to be with Him forever. But there is work to be done here on earth. He has a purpose for my life and I need to be about HIS purpose, not mine.

I need to remember that this world is not my home. I need to live IN the world, but not of the world. Behaving with fear is not like fearing punishment. 1 John 4:18 says that "perfect love casts out fear." This is a reverent awe and respect for God as my Father. Honor Him in my time on earth. Love what He loves. Hate what He hates. Seek Him first. Remember that my Heavenly Father ransomed me from the DNA of sin that I inherited from my forefather, Adam. God is worthy of all my respect and more.

Vs. 20-21 ~ "He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

Let me not forget Jesus and His precious blood poured out for me. He was there before the world began... in all His glory... and He emptied Himself of His glory and majesty in order to pay what I could not pay. He did that for me!!! He made the Father known to me so that I could be reconciled to Him and put my faith and hope in Him. The Father sent His Son to die for me, and then raised from the dead and gave Him the glory He deserves, so that I could be set free from the domain of darkness that meant to destroy my soul. He deserves my worship, my reverent awe, my obedience.

Vs. 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, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "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." And this word is the good news that was preached to you."

One thing I see in so many of the scriptures is that God always ties my relationship to Him with my relationship with others. It makes sense. Jesus said the two greatest commandments are, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself." So... if I want to obey God in pure reverence, it will impact how I love others. My salvation is based in sacrificial love, and my obedience calls me to sacrificially love.

The call to love in this passage has 2 different Greek words for love. The first is that my obedience to God helps me have phileo love for my brothers and sisters... that's a friendly, caring love... but that kind of love calls me to a deeper, agape... pure sacrificial love toward others. What's the reason for loving with this kind of love? The Lord has loved me with that kind of love. I've been born again. I have new life in Christ. He loves me like that, so I'm called to love others like that. This is what God has called me to in His word that never dies. Everything and everyone will pass away, but God's word will remain forever. Let His word be my compass... not my feelings.

O Lord, please help me to remember what You've brought me from and what You're taking me to. Please let it impact the way I live in every way possible. Jesus, You said, "I give up My comfort for the salvation of My people." The discomfort You faced was exponentially worse than anything I will ever face. Because of that, please help me to lay down my expectations and say, "It's not about my comfort. It's about my King."