



7/2/26

*1 Peter 1:13-25 ~*

*Man, Peter amazes me. He's such a great picture to me of what God can do. He notoriously stuck his foot in his mouth throughout the gospels. He denied Jesus 3 times on the night of His betrayal and arrest. And yet, Jesus offered him forgiveness after He rose again, and He gave him the Holy Spirit as He promised He would... and Peter's big mouth became a holy, powerful, effective tool in the hands of God. And God does the same for ME!!!*

*This passage from Peter's letter to the believers who were scattered for their faith gives me so much hope. Vs. 1-12 told me the amazing things God has done for me and the amazing hope I have. Vs. 13-25 give me insight into what to do with that hope.*

*Vs. 13 ~ "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."*

*Therefore, in light of the fact that God has given me new life in Him with the hope and inexpressible joy of eternity with Him... prepare my mind for action and be sober minded. Why? 1 Peter 5:8 tells me that my adversary, the devil, is seeking to devour me. I need to be sober minded or I will not be able to resist his attacks. I will get my mind set on the brokenness of this world rather than setting my hope on the fullness of grace I will experience when Jesus comes again. Right now, I know I have been saved by grace, I stand in grace, and I'm surrounded by His grace... but this is just a glimpse of the fullness of grace I'm going to experience. So I need to be prepared for action and sober minded so that I don't lose sight of His grace.*

*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.'"*

*I HAVE to be sober minded and prepared because it's not just the devil who's trying to devour me. Also, the passions of my former IGNORANCE are always fighting for my attention. To be sober minded and alert will lead me to first, remember that I'm God's child, and second, that obedience to Him is actually the best place to be. In my ignorance, I thought the greatest achievement in life was to get everything my heart desires... but that desire was based on lies and SELF. I was dead in my sins. Obedience to God brings greater and lasting blessings than my old desires could ever reach.*

*To conform to my old ignorant passions is to fashion my life to them, to attach myself to them. They bring nothing but pain. They are self sabotage. It's not that I have to try harder to achieve satisfaction in my old ignorance, it's that I need to be on a whole new plan.*

*God never calls me to take something away without replacing it with something else. What God wants to replace my old ignorance with seems impossible. He wants me to be holy like Him. In myself, it IS impossible. But with God all things are possible. This is both a command and a promise. The command is to be holy in ALL my conduct... to be pure, set apart. It's also a promise. You SHALL be holy, because God is holy. To be with Him is to be like Him. 1 John 3:3 says that "when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is." That's it. Being near Him changes me to be holy. 1 Corinthians 3:16-18 tells me that my job is to turn to Him and behold Him, and the Holy Spirit makes me like Jesus... set apart, holy. Lord, I praise You that You don't expect me to achieve holiness on my own. That isn't possible. Any time I'm trying to do things in my own strength, I'm working within the mindset of my old ignorance. The Holy Spirit won't help me to do that. It pushes me away from relationship with You.*

*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..." Yikes!!! God is impartial and He judges my work??? Yes, but not to condemn me. The condemnation I deserve was paid for by Jesus 2000 years ago. The word for "fear" does not mean that I should be terrified of God's judgment, but that I should be in reverent awe of Him. He's working in me to help me become holy. He's promised that I WILL be holy. But I need to cooperate with Him and give Him the respect He deserves, because I was "ransomed from the futile ways inherited*

*from my 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." I was redeemed from the futile, worthless life that I inherited from my forefather, Adam. He did a worthless thing that affected the rest of mankind from thousands of years ago even to this day. He chose to rebel against God, and he passed the DNA of sin into my veins and heart and soul.*

*BUT JESUS... ransomed me, not by paying money for my redemption. No amount of money could cover my debt. The only worthy payment was His own perfect, pure, holy, unblemished blood. He is the Lamb of God who takes away my sin SO THAT holiness is even possible for me... SO THAT holiness is even something I regard as worthy. In my ignorance, I thought holiness was boring and impossible. I thought holiness was what gave God the right to hate me. I was so IGNORANT! His holiness is what makes His love so incredibly pure and unbreakable toward me!!!*

*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."*

*From before the beginning of time, God knew Adam and Eve would rebel against Him, and from before the beginning of time, Jesus was the plan for my redemption. Through Jesus, I am able to believe in the Father. The fact that Jesus is alive is the evidence of my redemption! The fact that Jesus is on His throne with all glory is the evidence that my faith and hope in God are not wasted.*

*I have always struggled to understand the enormity of the resurrection. It is the door that opens hope to me. God raised people from the dead before Jesus was raised from the dead. But that was only physical resurrection. Jesus' resurrection brought me both physical and spiritual life forever. Without Jesus, I would be hopeless. O Lord, please help me to grasp the power of Your resurrection as much as is possible this side of heaven.*

*Vs. 21-25 ~ "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..."*

*I don't think there's a time that God's word speaks of obedience and hope without turning outward to how I treat others. My soul IS purified... "He has perfected for all time those who*

are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). He has declared over me what He is now doing in me. The purification of my soul makes it possible for me to obey God... and there's a purpose in that... God wants me to have "a sincere brotherly love" for other believers. This is not agape love, the sacrificial, unconditional love spoken of in so much of scripture. This is "phileo" love, friendship love. God wants me love other believers "sincerely, earnestly, from a pure heart." He wants me to love without hypocrisy, so that my outward behavior is not fake, but truly coming from my heart. He wants me to love earnestly, fervently, intensely!!! The word "adequate" can never be in my vocabulary as a believer. And this PURE love is to be for ALL believers! Yikes!!! This is impossible! Yes, but God is able to do the impossible as I set my mind on Him.

What reason does He give me for loving like this??? I have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable. I can't say that another person doesn't deserve that kind of love because I'm not called to love based on how they treat me. I'm called to love based on how Jesus treats me... He paid my ransom with His own blood. His living and abiding word is the seed planted into my soul that never dies. I need to be sober minded and prepared for action because my old ignorant self will fight against this, and the devil will be happy to help by deluding me with lies if I don't stay alert.

"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." The wonderful news is, the perishable seed of the devil that gets planted into my flesh is passing away. It's going to die. When Jesus takes me home, all the flesh and deceit will fall to the ground and die... and I will be fully transformed to share all His holiness and glorious life forever. His word cannot die. It remains forever. Praise God, this good news was preached to me.

O Lord, please help me to be sober minded and prepared for action with my hope fully set on You. I will not be disappointed. Please help me to cooperate with You as You make me holy. Refine me as You see fit. Help me to remember the inexpressible joy that comes in putting all my hope in You. They say, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." But with You, I can. You keep me safe. The evidence of Your holiness growing in me will be how I love others. I pray that the evidence of Your holiness in me will grow more and more! I confess to You that I don't have the fullness of sincere, fervent, pure brotherly love for all people YET. But I trust that You will make it so as I put my hope in You. I will live in reverent awe and respect of you. 💜