

November 9, 2025

1 Peter 4:7-11 NIV 1984

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

¹¹If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.



Grace and Suffering, Part IV

1 Peter 4:7-11

BIG IDEA: Because the end of all things and the return of Christ is near, let us live more intentionally in love, hospitality, and service to others, for the glory of God.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction: The end of all things is near
- II. Practical impact and outworking in our relationships
 - A. Love deeply
 - B. Offer hospitality
 - C. Serve others
- III. Conclusion and Application

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What if you knew the world would end in 24 hours? How would you spend your last day on Earth, and with whom?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and 1 Peter 4:7. If “the end of all things is at hand” does not mean Peter expected Christ’s imminent return, how do Christ’s death, resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost make the end “near”? What should this mean for daily Christian living?
3. 1 Peter 4:8. “Love covers a multitude of sins” — so why are we still hunting for faults, replaying old grudges, or slow to forgive the very people we’ll live with forever? Pick one relationship: how will you cover sin with love today?
4. 1 Peter 4:9. What would practicing hospitality without grumbling look like for you in your circumstances and culture?
5. 1 Peter 4:10. What is your spiritual gift: speaking, teaching, hospitality, mercy, generosity, serving, or other? How are you using, or how could you start using, the gifts God has given you to serve others in the church? If you’re not sure what your spiritual gift(s) are, Pastor Ken will walk you through the Serve Profile.
6. What is one practical change the Spirit is calling you to make because of reflecting on this passage?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Peter wrote to encourage persecuted and bewildered Christians and to exhort them to stand fast in their faith (5:12). For that purpose, he repeatedly turned their thoughts to the joys and glories of their eternal inheritance and instructed them about proper Christian behavior during undeserved suffering. While addressed primarily to persecuted Christians, the principles Peter taught apply to all Christians who suffer regardless of the cause, provided the suffering is not occasioned by one's own sin.

- NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible.

Praise to Jesus-Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We live in the end times, eagerly anticipating the return of Jesus. Because of our union in Christ, we remain clear-minded and self-controlled, so we can pray, love each other deeply, and offer hospitality joyfully. Praise God for the gifts that He has given us and for the opportunity to use them to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in the strength God provides. To him, be the glory and the power forever and ever!

Repentance through Jesus-Spend time today in confession and repentance for hunting for faults in others, replaying old grudges, and for being slow to forgive the very people we will live with forever.

Consecration for Jesus-To Jesus be the glory and the power forever and ever, the end of all things, and the return of Christ is near. Let us live more intentionally in love, hospitality, and service to others, for the glory of God.

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

These questions are written to aid parents in leading family devotions with their children.

1. What does Peter mean in verse 7 that the “end of all things is at hand”? (He is reminding his original audience and us that the final part of God’s redemptive plan is the return of Jesus to bring in the final judgment and the new heavens & new earth. He is not necessarily saying that Jesus is coming back soon, as we think about what soon means. Jesus taught that we should live every day expecting His return. Peter taught, as did Jesus and other New Testament writers, that as Christians we need to focus more on how we are to live as we look for Jesus’ return and not focus on when He will return.)

2. Do you remember the situation of those who first received Peter’s letter? Why would it be important for these early Christians to “keep loving one another”? (Peter was writing to Christians facing suffering due to their faith in Jesus. They had to feel discouraged; therefore, it would be all the more important for them to “keep loving one another.”)

3. What does the word hospitality mean? How can you show someone hospitality today and this week? (Hospitality means that you host people at your house and make them feel at home and a part of your family. Pray and discuss with your children how you all can show hospitality to a neighbor or to someone at church this week.)

4. What are the gifts that Peter mentioned in verses 10-11? What is the purpose of these God-given gifts? (These are spiritual gifts that all Christians have. Their main purpose is to serve our fellow Christians [v.10] and to bring God glory [v.11].)

5. Talk with your children about the spiritual gifts that God has given to you and how you have used those gifts. Take time to talk with your children about the gifts that you see that God has given them. Then talk with them about how to use their gifts. If you want some assistance or ideas for how you and your children can serve, then contact Pastor Ken (kenc@fpcrome.org)

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 12: 3-8

Romans 12:9-13

1 Corinthians 13

Proverbs 10:12

Ephesians 4:11-12

FOR STUDENTS

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 12:9-13

Ephesians 4:11-13

John 13:34-35

1. In verse 7, Peter says, “The end of all things is at hand.” What does he mean by this? How should the reality that Jesus could return at any time impact the way you think, pray, and live each day?
2. Verse 8 says, “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” How have you seen love cover over sin—in your own life or in your relationships with others? What does it look like to love others earnestly even when it’s hard?
3. Verse 9 calls believers to “show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” What does true, joyful hospitality look like for you as a student? How might you practice this with your friends, church family, or neighbors?
4. In verses 10–11, Peter says each Christian has received a gift to use in serving others. What are some gifts or strengths God has given you, and how can you use them to serve others and bring glory to God?
5. According to verse 11, everything we do—whether serving or speaking—should be done “by the strength that God supplies” so that “God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” How can remembering that your strength comes from God help you avoid burnout, pride, or comparison when serving others?
6. What’s one area of your life where God might be calling you to live more intentionally—for the good of others and the glory of God—in light of this passage?

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Peter writes that “the end of all things is near” (v.7). If we go back to v.5, we see that this refers to (among other things), the coming judgment of God. The most important thing for any of us is that we prepare for the “end” by being in right relationship to God before we meet him!

Question: Have you repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus Christ as the Savior of your sins? The Bible says (2 Peter 3:9) that one of the reasons He has not yet returned is that He is patiently giving you time to repent and turn to Him while you still have the opportunity.

2. Given the “end of all things is near,” this should make us “clear-minded, self-controlled, and prayerful” (v.7).

Question: How might thinking about our future impact the way we think, act, and pray right now? If you really believed you were at the end of your life, how would that sharpen your thinking, make you more alert, change your priorities, and live your life with more intentionality?

3. Peter specifically mentions three practical ways that our lives should be affected by our awareness of the “end of all things”: love deeply (v.8), offer hospitality (v.9), and serve others (vv 10-11).

Reflect: Take some time to reflect on each and pray about ways God would have you put these things into practice in your own life, particularly within your new church family.

4. Peter ends this passage by telling us that in all things God is to be given glory and praise (v.11).

Question: God saved us in order that we might live our lives solely for His glory and praise. Would you say that this is characteristic of your life currently? John the Baptist once stated, “He (Jesus) must increase, and I must decrease.” (John 3:30) In what areas might God be calling you to increase the way God gets the glory in your life?

Living Hope: How God's Glorious Grace in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us by the Spirit to Live with Gospel Grit in a Foreign Land.



Daniel in the Lion's Den by Briton Riviere, 1872

About the Artist: Briton Rivière, a British painter known for his animal paintings, particularly those featuring dogs and wild animals with deep emotion and dramatic flair, came from an artistic family. His father, William Rivière, was a drawing master and art teacher. Rivière initially studied at the University of Oxford, drawn to literary and historical themes, but later developed a fascination with animals and became renowned for his ability to imbue them with emotional depth and narrative presence.

About the Artwork

"Daniel in the Lion's Den" (1872) depicts the biblical story with lifelike lions, a popular and symbolic theme in Victorian England. It explores faith under trial, divine protection, and moral strength against tyranny, themes that resonated with Victorian audiences during a time when Christian values and moral courage were emphasized.

In Riviere's painting, Daniel's calm, unarmed demeanor symbolizes absolute trust in God. His gaze suggests prayer, hope, or spiritual communion, not fear. He represents the righteous man steady in the face of evil. The lions, though fierce, are subdued, a miracle of restraint. Riviere doesn't show angels or supernatural intervention; the restraint is invisible, spiritual. Some lions are relaxed, others alert, suggesting the tension between nature and divine command. Each lion has a distinct personality, reflecting the mystery of creation. The focused light on Daniel recalls God's presence in darkness. The murky den symbolizes the unknown, death, or temptation, yet Daniel remains untouched. Unlike dramatic biblical scenes, there's no movement or violence. The silence emphasizes Daniel's victory through trust, countering 19th-century action-heavy storytelling with a meditation on spiritual endurance.

1 Peter and Daniel in the Lion's Den

This painting, based on a biblical scene, helps us understand the overall theme of the New Testament letter. 1 Peter teaches Christians that as God's elect, they are called to live holy lives of faithful witness, enduring suffering with hope rooted in God's grace, while embracing their Gospel identity as a holy, royal priesthood in a hostile world. Like Daniel in the Old Testament, we are strangers in a distant place. Jesus told his disciples and us in the Gospel of John that we are "not of this world." Hebrews reminds the church that "this world is not their permanent home." Even within 1 Peter, God's people are called "sojourners and exiles."

Like Daniel, the darkness of this broken, sinful, and fallen world is always present. While we may never face a physical lion, Peter's first letter tells us that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, and the spiritual forces of evil are ever present. Yet, like Daniel, we must face the opposition with a Gospel poise, knowing that which is unseen is more powerful than what is seen and against us. Peter uses the language of "standing firm" in God's grace as we encounter all forms of darkness.

Church, may we see the beauty of 1 Peter in its overall message: God's glorious grace leading us to Gospel grit as sojourners in a dark world. But may we not just perceive its beauty but also embrace God's unique calling in these words: stand firm!