

Praise to God for a Living Hope



1 Peter 1:1-12 TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL HELPS

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HOW TO BE SECURE THROUGH SUFFERING: KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED, [1 Peter 1:1-12](#)

A. Know that You Are the Chosen of God, [1 Peter 1:1-2](#)

[\(1 Peter 1:1-2\)](#) **Introduction:** Peter is writing to people who were hurting and suffering, people who were being ridiculed and persecuted because they lived for Jesus Christ. Throughout the Roman Empire believers had been attacked and were being savagely persecuted—so much so that they had been forced to flee for their lives. **They had been forced to leave everything behind: homes, property, estates, businesses, jobs, money, church, friends, and fellow believers.** Believers had apparently taken their families and what belongings they could carry and fled for their lives. **Peter is writing to five Roman provinces** where most of the believers had apparently tried to hide and find safety. But note how the church is continuing on as an underground church.

Imagine the **fear, uncertainty, and insecurity**; the wandering about and the searching for a safe place and for a way to earn a living. In some cases, the believers did not even know where their next meal would come from. The church and its dear believers were fleeing for their lives. All the feelings that attack human emotions when a person is being hunted down for brutal slaughter were attacking these believers: **fear, concern, restlessness, sleeplessness, anxiety, stress, uncertainty, insecurity, and a pounding heart at the slightest shadow or noise.**

The believers desperately needed strong encouragement. But how? How do you shore up and strengthen a person who is suffering and hurting so much? How can a person be secure through suffering and persecution? There is one way and only one way: he must know that he is saved and be absolutely sure that he is under the care and love of God. This is the discussion of the first section of First Peter. It clearly tells us how to be secure through suffering. Our security is this: knowing that we are saved, that we belong to God and are looked after by God.

The first thing to know about our salvation is this: *know that you are the chosen of God.*

1. **[They are believers who are only strangers or pilgrims scattered over the earth \(v.1\).](#)**
2. **[They are people elected by God \(v.2\).](#)**
3. **[They are people set apart to God and covered by the blood of Christ \(v.2\).](#)**
4. **[They are people who obey God \(v.2\).](#)**
5. **[They are people who experience grace and peace \(v.2\).](#)**

1. (1 Peter 1:1) Believers— Chosen, The: the chosen are believers, believers who are only strangers scattered over the earth.

This is the descriptive picture being painted in **1 Peter 1:1**. Believers are only **strangers** (*parepidēmos*) on earth. The word *means* “**pilgrim, sojourner, visitor, resident foreigner or exile**”. The idea is that of a person visiting a place for a while, but he is not a permanent resident. Believers are citizens of heaven; their home is in heaven **with God**, not on earth with the rulers of this world. The rulers and people of this earth may persecute believers, but believers are here on earth only temporarily—only as **strangers, pilgrims, sojourners, and exiles**.

This is significant; it means two things:

1. It means that where we live on this earth does not matter all that much. No matter where we live, it is not our permanent home. Our home is in heaven. We may be forced to leave our homes and countries because of trouble and persecution—we may be poor and suffer great hardship in this life, but it is only for a brief time. We are only strangers and pilgrims on earth. We shall soon be called to go home—to go to our permanent home in heaven and be there forever and ever. And there shall be no hunger or poverty or suffering or hardship in heaven.

2. It means that we should keep our eyes and minds.....

- a. focused upon heaven as our permanent home.
- b. focused upon how short life is.
- c. focused upon how uncertain, insecure, and short-term all things upon earth really are.

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" ([Hebrews 11:13](#)).

"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" ([Hebrews 13:14](#)).

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" ([1 Peter 2:11](#)).

"And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage" ([Genesis 47:9](#)).

"For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding" ([1 Chron. 29:15](#)).

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were" ([Psalm 39:12](#)).

"I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me" ([Psalm 119:19](#)).

2. [\(1 Peter 1:2\) Election—Foreknowledge—God: the chosen are elected by God.](#)

They are actually called the elect, a people who had been elected or chosen by God. This means a most wonderful thing. It means that believers have the highest position in all the world, the position of being *God's own holy and beloved children* (cp. [Col. 3:12](#)).

- a. Believers have been elected to be *holy*. The word "holy" (*hagios*) means "separated or set apart". God called believers out of the world and away from the old life it offered, the old life of sin and death. He called believers to be separated and set apart unto Himself and the new life He offers, the new life of righteousness and eternity.
- b. Believers have been elected to be the *beloved* of God. God has called believers to turn away from the old life that showed hatred toward God, the old life that rejected, rebelled, ignored, denied, and was constantly cursing in the face of God. God has called believers to be the beloved of God, the persons who receive His love in Christ Jesus and who allow Him to shower His love upon them.

If God loves believers this much, enough to actually choose and elect them to be His very own holy and beloved people, then God will look after and take care of them. No matter how ridiculed, abused, and persecuted—no matter how poor, hungry, troubled, and distressed—no matter how great the hardship, God will meet the need of the dear believer, the one whom He has elected to be His own. (See [2 Thes. 2:13](#)). Remember that the Thessalonian believers were suffering trouble and persecution even as these believers were. The truths of election and predestination were used by both Paul and Peter to encourage believers when they were suffering great trouble and hardship. These are wonderful truths to encourage us when we have to face the great trials of this world.

Note one other point: how believers are elected. They are elected by the *foreknowledge of God*. What does this mean?

Foreknowledge can mean two things.

First, foreknowledge means that God sees the future. No matter how far a person looks into the future, God has already seen it.

God knows.....

- a. exactly what will happen, every single event and consequence.
- b. exactly what could happen (but will not), every single possibility and its consequences.

Foreknowledge means that God knows exactly what all men will do, every single act and consequence. God has one supreme overall view of all things—all things past, present, and future. **But note:** in this meaning foreknowledge does not determine anything; it only faces and forecasts what shall be. It is somewhat like an astronomer who can foresee the exact position and size of the moon on the first day of the month. He knows the future because He foresees the events that will take place with the moon between now and then. God has one supreme panoramic view of all things past, present, and future.

Second, foreknowledge *means* to **foreordain, determine, appoint, and predestine**.

This is definitely the meaning in [Acts 2:23](#):

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."

God did not just foresee the death of Christ, He foreordained it. Peter himself makes this point:

"[Christ] who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" ([1 Peter 1:20](#)).

The foreknowledge of God is a most wonderful truth for the believer. God is in total control. He not only can foresee all events, He can foreordain and control them—work them all out for good. Just imagine! Every single event on earth is worked out for good by God. He works the events out for His people. No matter how much trouble and hardship we suffer, no matter how little we may understand, God knows and will work it all out for our good. Why? Because we are His elect, His holy and beloved people. The chosen of God are those who are elected according to the foreknowledge of God: elected because He foresaw them and ordained them to be His holy and beloved people. (See below [Deeper Study #1, Foreknowledge—1 Peter 1:2](#) for more discussion and verses.)

DEEPER STUDY #1 (1 Peter 1:2) Foreknowledge

(1 Peter 1:2) Foreknowledge: the word "foreknowledge" (*prognōsis*) *means* "to see before; to know beforehand; to see and know the future; to foreordain".

God is God; therefore He sees the future. No matter how far a person looks into the future, God sees it.

God knows.....

- a. exactly what *will* happen, every single event and its consequences.
- b. exactly what *could* happen (but will not), every single possibility and its consequences.

Therefore God knows.....

- a. exactly what man *will* do, every single act and its consequences.
- b. exactly what man *could* do (but will not), every single possibility and its consequences.

God is God. He is eternal and omniscient (knowing all). He knows the past, the present, and the future. And note: He knows it all eternally, forever.

God knew.....

- a. every event of world history before the *foundation of the world*.
- b. every event of a person's life before the *foundation of the world* (cp. [Ephes. 1:4](#)).

Now in light of this, a question arises that is extremely important. If God knew all the terrible consequences of evil and death that would enter and overtake the world, if He knew the world would even kill His Son, why did He go ahead and create the world? Why did He not choose another way to do things?

In the simplest terms possible, there are at least two reasons.

1. God wanted a creature, a being with **free will**.

God created man because God willed to have the *presence* of a being who could *freely choose*.....

- a. to love and worship Him.
- b. to obey and fellowship with Him.
- c. to serve and reign with Him.

In His foreknowledge, God knew that some would choose Him and some would reject Him.

But He was willing to face.....

- a. the pain and hurt to His heart,
- b. the abuse and shame to His person,
- c. the rejection and rebellion against His will,

.....in order that some might know His glorious mercy and grace and experience all the glory of Himself and of heaven.

2. God did not choose another way to create and deal with man.....

- a. because the way God created man was the best way: perfect, in a perfect environment, with free choice and will, and in perfect fellowship with God (cp. [Genesis 2:16-17](#)).

b. because the way God deals with man is the best way: in love, in the mercy and grace of His Son. Love is the greatest force on earth. It is the very nature of God Himself ([1 John 4:8](#)). Love will change and transform, help and give, win and conquer when nothing else will. Love will cause a person to reach out and help another and even cause a person to sacrifice his life quicker than any other force on earth ([John 3:16](#); [John 15:13](#); [Romans 5:8](#)).

Note one other point that is critical, a point that stresses the glorious love and care of God: **it is the determinate counsel of God.**

The word "**determinate**" (*horismenei*) means “**pre-determined, appointed, decreed, ordained, planned, purposed**”. It is a plan set within bounds, within a certain boundary. It is a purpose that is set, marked out, determined, decreed to happen.

The word "**counsel**" (*boulei*) means “**to advise, counsel, design, will; to give a piece of advice**”. It carries the force of being willed and determined. Since God knows exactly what would happen in every situation, He plans for the best thing to happen. God takes counsel, puts all things under advisement and chooses the best way.

We may not understand some things that happen nor why they happen the way they do. We may think something else or some other way would have been better.

But we must remember two things.

1. We cannot see into the future. No man can. We cannot know what would have happened if another way had been chosen.

We cannot know what would have happened.....

- a. to us
- b. to others
- c. to the world

In every situation or event there are many other things that could have taken place. This is true of every situation, whether we call it **good or bad**. Think for a moment.

- a. What would have taken place if the situation had been replaced by some other happening?
- b. What would have taken place if another way had been chosen?
- c. What and how much would be changed for the worse eventually, if not now?

We cannot know. But we can know this: God knows, for He deals with the future as well as the present. God deals with eternity, with the whole

view. Therefore another situation, another way could have changed things for the worse.

Simply stated.....

- a. God knows the future, everything that could happen as well as what is best and should happen.
- b. God takes counsel, purposes, determines, plans and chooses the best thing to happen.

2. We who love God and are called according to His purpose know that all things work together for good. How do we know? Because we *do* love God and *are called* according to His purpose.

God knew that we would say "Yes" to Jesus, that we would love and follow Him. Therefore, God called us.

"For whom he did *foreknow*, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" ([Romans 8:29](#)).

Note why we are predestinated. This is the key: **"that he [God's Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren."** God has determined that Jesus might have many brothers, many who will live and fellowship with Him as the first Person, the pre-eminent Person throughout the universe.

This is the reason God chooses the very best events and the very best way for us. It is the reason He works all things out for good for believers. God knows all the possibilities; therefore, He is able to take counsel and determine, to plan the very best for us. ***Believe and trust this glorious truth.***

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" ([1 Cor. 2:9](#)).

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" ([Romans 11:33-36](#)).

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" ([Ephes. 3:20](#)).

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" ([Phil. 1:6](#)).

"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!" ([Psalm 31:19](#)).

A STUDY OF SOME SCRIPTURES DEALING WITH GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE AND DETERMINATE COUNSEL

(A study giving comfort and security—God is in control.)

1. The Scripture dealing with God's foreknowledge.
 - a. God's foreknowledge concerns Christ.

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" ([Acts 2:23](#)).

"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" ([1 Peter 1:20](#)).

- b. God's foreknowledge concerns believers.

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" ([1 Peter 1:2](#)).

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn [preeminent Person] among many brethren" ([Romans 8:28-29](#)).

(Note. These two verses actually show that God acts or predestines on the basis of His foreknowledge, of His counsel.)

- c. God's foreknowledge concerns Israel.

"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot [know] ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel" ([Romans 11:2](#)).

2. The Scripture dealing with God's determination.
 - a. God's determination concerns Christ.

"And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!" ([Luke 22:22](#)).

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" ([Acts 2:23](#)).

"And declared [determined, marked, planned] to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" ([Romans 1:4](#)).

"And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained [determined, appointed] of God to be the Judge of quick and dead" ([Acts 10:42](#)).

"Because he hath appointed [determined, appointed] a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" ([Acts 17:31](#)).

b. God's determination concerns salvation and security for believers.

"Again, he limiteth [determines, sets, appoints, plans] a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" ([Hebrews 4:7](#); cp. [2 Tim. 1:9](#); [Hebrews 13:8](#)).

3. The Scripture dealing with God's counsel.

a. God's counsel concerns Christ.

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" ([Acts 2:23](#)).

"For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done" ([Acts 4:28](#)).

b. God's counsel concerns believers and salvation.

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will [counsel] of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption" ([Acts 13:36](#)).

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" ([Ephes. 1:11](#)).

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath" ([Hebrews 6:17](#)).

c. God's counsel concerns God's plan for the world.

"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" ([Acts 20:27](#)).

d. God's counsel concerns those who reject Him.

"But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him" ([Luke 7:30](#)).

3. (1 Peter 1:2) Sanctification— Holy Spirit, Work: the chosen are sanctified by the Holy Spirit and covered by the blood of Christ.

What does this mean? It means that a person cannot be saved anytime he wants and any way he wants. It means that a person cannot just choose some religion and some particular time of life to come to God.

Two things are absolutely necessary for a person to be saved and to receive eternal life.

1. First, a person must be sanctified by the Holy Spirit of God (See [Deeper Study #1, Sanctification—1 Peter 1:15-16](#) on page # 47 for more discussion). To be *sanctified means* "to be set apart unto God; to be *made holy, pure and righteous unto God*". Before a person can come to God, he must be attracted and pulled to God—convicted that he should turn to God. He must be convicted that he needs the forgiveness and acceptance of God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. And this is the reason a man must turn to God when he feels the conviction of sin and his great need for God. This conviction is the Holy Spirit working within him, struggling to set the man's life apart unto God—to save him and to give him eternal life.

The Holy Spirit wants *every one of us* to be God's; to be set apart unto God, living holy, righteous, and pure lives; and He wants us living with God forever and ever—throughout all eternity. But remember what is stated above: a person cannot just turn to God by himself, by following some earthly religion or some earthly way to God. The only way a person can turn to God and be acceptable to God is by the Holy Spirit. The person must respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when the Holy Spirit draws and convicts him: he must be sanctified, set apart unto God to live a holy, righteous, and pure life.

Thought 1. This stresses the utter necessity of responding to the Spirit of God when we feel Him working within our hearts. All of us have sensed Him convicting us and we have delayed making a decision. **Remember what happened?** His conviction left us. He spoke to us, convicted and pulled us to make the decision, but we pushed it aside and said, "**Later.**" And He left us. The conviction and desire to make the decision was soon gone.

The point is forceful: we must respond and *respond immediately* when the Spirit of God works within us.

We must make the decision.....

- a. to be set apart unto God for salvation and eternal life.
- b. to be set apart unto God to live a life that is totally different from the life we have been living, a life that is more holy, righteous, and pure.

Note the end or purpose of sanctification: that we might be obedient to God. The one thing God wants is the same thing that any good father wants: obedient children. God wants us to love, fellowship, and commune with Him day by day and to follow His instructions. God knows and understands life, for He created life. Therefore, He wants the very best for all of us. This is the reason He has done so much to save us. His whole purpose—the very end toward which He has done all—is to lead us to a life of obedience. Obeying God is the only way we can know a full and complete life. Therefore, obedience is the purpose and end of sanctification.

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" ([1 Cor. 1:30](#)).

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" ([2 Cor. 7:1](#)).

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" ([Ephes. 5:26](#)).

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" ([2 Tim. 2:21](#)).

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" ([Hebrews 12:14](#)).

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" ([Hebrews 13:12-15](#)).

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" ([1 Peter 1:2](#)).

"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" ([1 Peter 1:16](#)).

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall

melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" ([2 Peter 3:11-14](#)).

2. Second, a person must be sprinkled or covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. **What does this mean?** It means to be justified by His blood.

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" ([Romans 5:9](#)).

We have broken the law of God. We have neglected God, ignored God, cursed God, rebelled against God, and rejected God. We have chosen to live like we want, to do our own thing, and we have refused to live like God says. Therefore, we stand before the law of God guilty.

As with all law, we must bear.....

- a.** the penalty of the law
- b.** the judgment of the law
- c.** the condemnation of the law
- d.** the punishment of the law
- e.** the wrath of the law

We stand before the wrath of God—His law, His justice—and there is no escape. We have broken the law of God; therefore, the penalty has to be paid. ***But this is the glorious gospel: Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for us.*** He has stepped forth and offered His life as a substitute and sacrifice for us. He has borne the judgment and condemnation of our transgression.

How could He do this? Because He was the Son of God and He lived a perfect and sinless life when He was upon earth. He stood before God as the Perfect and Ideal Man, as the Ideal Righteousness that could cover all men. Consequently, when He died on the cross, His death was the perfect and ideal sacrifice for sins. His blood—the blood He shed for us—was the perfect and ideal sacrifice for transgressions. Therefore, His blood can cover us and all of our transgressions.

This is the way we are saved and the way we receive eternal life; this is the way we are made acceptable to God: by being sprinkled or covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ covers all our transgressions and makes us guiltless before God—perfect and acceptable to Him.

This is the chosen of God—a people chosen to come to God by being sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ, God's dear Son.

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" ([Romans 5:9](#)).

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" ([Hebrews 9:14](#)).

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" ([1 Peter 1:18-19](#)).

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" ([1 John 1:7](#)).

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" ([Rev. 1:5](#)).

[DEEPER STUDY #2 \(1 Peter 1:2\) Jesus' Blood— Death](#)

[\(1 Peter 1:2\) Jesus' Blood— Death](#): Peter says the blood of Jesus Christ was symbolized in the Old Testament. There are **three references** to the sprinkling of the blood, and all **three references** have meaning for the believer.

1. The blood symbolized cleansing from sin. A believer was looked upon as becoming defiled while he walked throughout the world. Thus, he was occasionally to make sacrifice and be sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice ([Numbers 19:9](#); [Hebrews 9:13](#)). A man who was cleansed from leprosy was also sprinkled with blood—the blood of a bird ([Leviticus 14:1-7](#)).

2. The blood symbolized obedience to God. God made several great promises to Israel. But the promises were conditional; Israel had to obey the law of God. If Israel obeyed, God promised to bless the nation beyond imagination. This is what is meant by *God's covenant relationship* with Israel. God made a covenant with Israel, but the covenant was conditional upon their obedience.

3. The symbol of God's covenant relationship, of His promises, was blood. There was a ceremony in which the people surrounded the tabernacle and promised to obey God, and then Moses took an animal sacrifice and sprinkled half the blood on the altar and half the blood on the people ([Exodus 24:3-8](#); [Hebrews 12:24](#)). Note that the Lord Himself called the sprinkled blood, "My blood of the new covenant" ([Matthew 26:28](#); [Mark 14:24](#)).

[4. \(1 Peter 1:2\) Obedience— Chosen, The: the chosen are the people who obey God.](#)

The only kind of faith that really saves a person is the kind of faith that is obedient, that diligently seeks God. Believing faith is obedient faith.

A person who really believes in Christ, who really trusts the blood of Christ to cover his transgressions, obeys Christ. This is exactly what Scripture says.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" ([Hebrews 5:9](#)).

Now, note the verse: the very end or purpose of sanctification is that we might be obedient to God. The one thing God wants is obedience—obedient children—the very same thing that any good father wants. God wants us to follow His Word and its instructions. Why? Because God knows and understands life. God created and made life; therefore, He knows exactly how life has to be lived in order to get the most out of it. God is God and He is a God of love; consequently He wants the very best for us. This is the reason He has done so much to save us; this is the reason He has given us His Word and its instructions. His whole purpose—the very end toward which He has done all—is to lead us to a life of obedience. Obeying God is the only way we can know a full and complete life.

Thought 1. This means a most significant thing: the persons who are truly chosen by God are those who are obeying God. It does not matter what a person may be professing; it does not matter to which church or religion a person may belong. What matters is obedience: is the person obeying God? Is he truthfully believing and trusting, surrendering and casting his life upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His blood to cleanse him from all transgressions?

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" ([Matthew 7:21](#)).

"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth [obeys]" ([Romans 10:3-4](#)).

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" ([Titus 2:14](#)).

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" ([Hebrews 5:9](#)).

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" ([1 John 1:7](#)).

"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment" ([1 John 3:23](#)).

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" ([Rev. 22:14](#)).

5. (1 Peter 1:2) Grace— Peace— Chosen, The: the chosen are people who experience grace and peace.

1. Grace (*charis*) means the “undeserved favor and blessings of God”. The word *undeserved* is the key to understanding grace. Man does not deserve God's favor; he cannot earn God's approval and blessings. God is too high and man is too low for man to deserve anything from God. Man is imperfect and God is perfect; therefore, man cannot expect anything from God. Man has reacted against God too much.

Man has.....

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. rejected God | e. cursed God |
| b. rebelled against God | f. sinned against God |
| c. ignored God | g. disobeyed God |
| d. neglected God | h. denied God |
| | i. questioned God |

Man deserves nothing from God except judgment, condemnation, and punishment. But God is love—perfect and absolute love. Therefore, God makes it possible for man to experience His grace, in particular the favor and blessing of salvation which is in His Son, Jesus Christ.

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 3:24](#)).

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" ([2 Cor. 8:9](#)).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace" ([Ephes. 1:7](#)).

"That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" ([Ephes. 2:7](#)).

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" ([Phil. 4:19](#)).

"And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" ([1 Tim. 1:14](#)).

2. Peace (*eirēnē*) means “to be bound, joined, and weaved together”. It means to be assured, confident, and secure in the love and care of God.

It means to have a sense, a consciousness, a knowledge that God will.....

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. provide | f. encourage |
| b. guide | g. save |
| c. strengthen | h. give life, real life |
| d. sustain | both now and forever |
| e. deliver | |

A person can experience true peace only as he comes to know Jesus Christ. Only Christ can bring peace to the human heart, the kind of peace that brings deliverance and assurance to the human soul.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid" ([John 14:27](#)).

"These things I have spoken unto you that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" ([John 16:33](#)).

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" ([Romans 5:1](#)).

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" ([Romans 8:6](#)).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord only makest me dwell in safety" ([Psalm 4:8](#)).

HOW TO BE SECURE THROUGH SUFFERING: KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED, [1 Peter 1:1-12](#)

B. Know the Believer's Living Hope, [1 Peter 1:3-5](#)

[\(1 Peter 1:3-5\)](#) **Introduction— Hope:** this is a rich, rich passage of Scripture. It is one of those passages that is so rich that it would take an eternity to grasp all that is taught herein. And note the most wonderful thing: it has to do with the believer's glorious hope. **What is the great hope of the believer?** It is eternal life—the glorious privilege of living forever with God. Just imagine living face to face with God forever! No greater privilege could ever be given man.

Note that our hope is said to be a *living hope*.

- a. A living hope means that it is not a dead, lifeless hope. It is not the kind of hope that we use to stir positive thinking for the moment but does nothing for us beyond the grave; not the kind of hope that gives us meaning and motivation for life but is dead and lifeless beyond this life. Despite all the earthly benefit we get from positive thinking and motivational hope, these have no meaning beyond this life and the grave.
- b. A living hope means that it is not a *probable hope*; it is not the kind of hope that may or may not come to pass.

The hope that God gives is a *living hope*, a hope that is real and true, that actually exists. A *living hope* is active and functioning; it acts and works both within the heart of the believer and within heaven apart from the believer. Eternal life is a *living hope* because it is reality; it is a life that really exists in another world, the spiritual world, that is more real than the world in which we live.

The believer's hope for eternal life lives, acts, and works within the believer now, even while he is on earth. It is not that the believer is going to receive eternal life; he has already received eternal life. His hope for eternal life is living, acting, and working within him right now. This is the glorious hope of the believer, the living hope of living forever with God face to face.

1. [The source of the hope: the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ \(v.3\).](#)
2. [The inheritance of the hope \(v.4\).](#)
3. [The assurance of the hope \(v.5\).](#)

1. (1 Peter 1:3) Hope, Believer's— Mercy: there is the source of the hope. The source is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note who our Lord Jesus Christ is.

- a. He is *our Lord*, the One to whom we have surrendered and subjected our lives; the One who sits in the spiritual and heavenly world at the right hand of God the Father.
- b. He is *Jesus*, the carpenter from Nazareth, the Man who claimed to be the Son of God and who was sent into the world as the Savior of men.
- c. He is *Christ* the Messiah who was promised by God to save men.

This means a most wonderful thing: if we follow the Lord Jesus Christ, then the God and Father of Jesus Christ becomes our God and Father. **And note:** He is the God who gives eternal life. **This too means a most wonderful thing:** God is not off in outer space someplace, far removed from us, a god with little or no interest in our welfare. God is near at hand, all about us, living within the spiritual world and dimension, longing to relate to us and to look after and care for us, and to give us eternal life. Jesus Christ shows us this. This was the way His Father took care of Him; and if we follow Christ, it is the way God, *even our Father*, takes care of us. **He gives us the most wonderful of gifts:** eternal life—the *living hope* of living forever with Him even as Christ our Lord is now living with Him in heaven.

Thought 1. Note: eternal life exists nowhere else. Only the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ possesses eternal life. Therefore, if a person wants to know God and to receive eternal life, he has to come to the Lord Jesus Christ. The person has to trust Christ if he wants the God and Father of Christ to give him eternal life. And we must always remember: only the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ can give a person the living hope of living forever.

Now, how does God go about giving us the living hope of eternal life? This is a critical question, for when we look around our world all we see is corruption and death. We are born and then before we know it, it is time to die. There is so little time in between birth and death. And even while we are here on earth there is **sin, shame, accident, disease, suffering, evil, cursing, lying, stealing, deception, assaults, murders, wars**—so much corruption that death just seems to engulf the earth. The thinking and honest person knows that he and everything else including the world itself are dying. **How then does God stop this process of corruption and death? How does God go about giving us the living hope of eternal life?**

1. The living hope comes by the mercy of God. This is the basis of our hope; it could be no other way. Man is just so sinful he has only one hope: the hope that *God will have mercy upon him.*

Just think how we have treated God. **We have**.....

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| a. ignored Him | f. disobeyed Him |
| b. neglected Him | g. rebelled against Him |
| c. failed Him | h. sinned against Him |
| d. rejected Him | i. disbelieved Him |
| e. cursed Him | j. turned away from Him |

The list could go on and on, but the point is clearly seen. Our only hope is the mercy of God. If we are going to ever be accepted and given the living hope of living forever and ever, then God has to be merciful. He has to have mercy upon us.

The word "**mercy**" (*eleeō*) means "**feelings of pity, compassion, affection, and kindness**". It is a desire to succor; to tenderly draw unto oneself and to care for. Two things are essential in order to have mercy: seeing a need and being able to meet that need. God sees our need and feels for us ([Ephes. 2:1-3](#)). Therefore, He acts; He has mercy upon us. **How?**

By doing two things:

- a. God withholds His judgment.
- b. God provides a way for us to be saved.

And note that God is said to have abundant (**great, overflowing, endless, boundless**) mercy. His mercy just flows on and on; it is ever covering us and creating the living hope and presence of eternal life within our hearts.

"For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all" ([Romans 11:32](#)).

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)" ([Ephes. 2:4-5](#)).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" ([Titus 3:5](#)).

"But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children" ([Psalm 103:17](#)).

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not" ([Lament. 3:22](#)).

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy" ([Micah 7:18](#)).

2. The living hope comes by the new birth. Note the words *begotten again* or *born again*. There is no hope for eternal life unless a person is *born again* by the Spirit of God. A person has to be regenerated and made into a *new man* before he can ever live forever.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" ([John 3:3](#)).

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" ([John 3:5-7](#)).

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)).

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" ([Ephes. 4:24](#)).

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" ([Col. 3:10](#)).

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" ([1 Peter 1:23](#)).

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" ([1 John 5:1](#)).

3. The living hope comes by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead to live forever in heaven with His Father.

How does His resurrection give us the hope of living forever? By three things.

- a. **First**, God has proven that He has the power to raise the dead. There should never be any question about this; for God, if He is truly God, has unlimited power to do anything. But His power to raise the dead and to keep them from ever dying again is now proven beyond all question: it is proven by the fact that He has raised Jesus Christ from the dead and exalted Him into heaven never again to die.
- b. **Second**, the fact that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead proves that Jesus Christ is exactly who He claimed to be: the Son of God who came into the world to save men. God would have never raised Christ if He had been a liar and deceiver. Jesus Christ is *the Savior* of the world; therefore, God raised Him from the dead.
- c. **Third**, Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Perfect and Ideal Man who lived a sinless life when He was upon earth. Therefore, He stands before God as the Perfect and Ideal Man. What this means is most significant. Being the Perfect and Ideal Man, whatever He does is acceptable to God. When He arose from the dead, His resurrection was the perfect and ideal resurrection. Therefore, it can stand for and cover every man's resurrection. If we are *in Christ*—if we really *believe in Christ*—then God can count us in the ideal resurrection of Christ. God can raise us up to live with Him forever and ever just as He did with Christ. Remember why—because Jesus Christ arose and has given us the

ideal and perfect resurrection, and the Ideal can stand for and cover the resurrection of all others.

"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" ([Romans 4:25](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" ([Romans 10:9-10](#)).

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" ([1 Cor. 15:1-4](#)).

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" ([Ephes. 1:19-20](#)).

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" ([1 Thes. 4:14](#)).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively [living] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" ([1 Peter 1:3](#)).

2. ([1 Peter 1:4](#)) Hope, Believer's— Inheritance, Spiritual: there is the inheritance of the hope.

The inheritance is the eternal life that God gives us, but the inheritance of eternal life involves the most wonderful gifts imaginable.

There Shall Be the Inheritance of a New Nature or State of Being

- a. Being adopted as a son of God ([Galatians 4:4-7](#); [1 John 3:1](#)).
- b. Being made blameless and harmless ([Phil. 2:15](#)).
- c. Being given eternal life ([John 3:16](#); [1 Tim. 6:19](#)).
- d. Being given an enduring substance ([Hebrews 10:34](#)).
- e. Being given a glorious body ([Phil. 3:11, 21](#); [1 Cor. 15:42-44](#)).
- f. Being given eternal glory and honor and peace ([Romans 2:10](#)).
- g. Being given eternal rest and peace ([Hebrews 4:9](#); [Rev. 14:13](#)).
- h. Being given the blessings of the Lord ([Proverbs 10:22](#)).
- i. Being given the knowledge of Christ Jesus ([Phil. 3:8](#)).
- j. Being given durable riches and righteousness ([Proverbs 8:18](#)).

- k. Being made priests ([Rev. 20:6](#)).
- l. Being given a crown of incorruption ([1 Cor. 9:25](#)).
- m. Being given a crown of righteousness ([2 Tim. 4:8](#)).
- n. Being given a crown of life ([James 1:12](#)).
- o. Being given a crown of glory ([1 Peter 5:4](#)).

There Shall Be the Inheritance of Work or Position and Rule

- a. Being made exalted beings ([Rev. 7:9-12](#)).
- b. Being made ruler over many things ([Matthew 25:23](#)).
- c. Being given the Kingdom of God ([James 2:5](#); [Matthew 25:34](#)).
- d. Being given a position of rule and authority ([Luke 12:42-44](#); [Luke 22:28-29](#); [1 Cor. 6:2-3](#)).
- e. Being given eternal responsibility and joy ([Matthew 25:21, 23](#)).
- f. Being given rule and authority over cities ([Luke 19:17, 19](#)).
- g. Being given thrones and the privilege of reigning forever ([Rev. 20:4](#); [Rev. 22:5](#)).
- h. Being given the privilege of surrounding the throne of God ([Rev. 7:9-13](#); [Rev. 20:4](#)).
- i. Being made priests ([Rev. 20:6](#)).
- j. Being made kings ([Rev. 1:5](#); [Rev. 5:10](#)).

There Shall be the Inheritance of Wealth

- a. Being made an heir of God ([Romans 8:16-17](#); [Titus 3:7](#)).
- b. Being given an incorruptible inheritance ([1 Peter 1:3-4](#)).
- c. Being given the blessings of the Lord ([Proverbs 10:22](#)).
- d. Being given durable riches and righteousness ([Proverbs 8:18](#)).
- e. Being given unsearchable riches ([Ephes. 3:8](#)).
- f. Being given treasures in heaven ([Matthew 19:21](#); [Luke 12:33](#)).

Note how our inheritance is described in [1 Peter 1:4](#). It is most descriptive, an astounding picture of the new heavens and earth that are coming and of our life in God's new and eternal world.

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" ([1 Peter 1:4](#)).

1. Our inheritance is "**incorruptible**" (*aphthartos*). The word *means* that "it cannot perish; it does not age, deteriorate, or die; it does not have the seed of corruption within it".

Thought 1. **Matthew Henry** points out that everything on earth changes from better to worse, but not our inheritance. It is perfect and incorruptible. It never changes, and it shall never cease to be the most perfect inheritance and gift imaginable (*Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol.6. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, p.1005.).

2. Our inheritance is "**undefiled**" (*amiantos*). The word *means* that "**it cannot be polluted or defiled, dirtied or infected**". It means that our inheritance will be without any flaw or defect; it will be perfectly free from sickness, disease, infections, accident, pollution, dirt—from any defilement whatsoever. There will never be any tears over what happens to oneself or over the damage or loss of some possession.

3. Our inheritance *does not fade away* (*amarantos*). It will last forever and ever. The splendor and beauty of it all—of life and of all the positions and possessions which God shall give us—none of the splendor and beauty shall fade or diminish whatsoever. Nothing, not even our energy and bodies, shall wear out or waste away.

4. Our inheritance is in heaven; it is reserved there for us. It is actually being held there by God for us. God is simply waiting for us to finish our task here on earth and to come to Him. Then He will give us our inheritance.

Note a critical point: the persons who are to receive the inheritance are those who have received the mercy of God, been born again, and are trusting the resurrection of Jesus Christ to cover their resurrection ([1 Peter 1:3](#)).

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" ([Acts 20:32](#)).

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me" ([Acts 26:18](#)).

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" ([Romans 8:16-17](#)).

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" ([Galatians 3:29](#)).

"[Christ] in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" ([Ephes. 1:11](#)).

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints" ([Ephes. 1:18](#)).

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" ([Col. 1:12](#)).

"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" ([Col. 3:24](#)).

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" ([Titus 3:7](#)).

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" ([Hebrews 1:14](#)).

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath" ([Hebrews 6:17](#)).

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" ([Hebrews 11:7](#)).

"Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" ([Hebrews 11:26](#)).

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" ([James 2:5](#)).

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" ([1 Peter 1:4](#)).

3. (1 Peter 1:5) Hope, Believer's: there is the assurance of the hope.

How do we know for sure that we will receive the inheritance? The temptations and trials of life are so forceful and threatening, how do we know that we will receive the living hope of eternal life and its glorious inheritance? How do we know that we will not fall and come short of the great day of redemption?

There are two answers.

1. There is the assurance of God's power. God's power keeps us. The word "**kept**" (*phroureō*) means "to guard; to garrison; to protect". It is a military term; therefore it has the idea of might and strength. The might and strength of God's power protect us throughout our journey in life—through all the trials and temptations of life—and God will see to it that we shall reach the glorious end of life: salvation. God Himself, in His sovereign and omnipotent power, will see to it that we receive eternal life and the inheritance that is being reserved for us.

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are" ([John 17:11](#)).

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" ([Romans 16:25](#)).

"But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil" ([2 Thes. 3:3](#)).

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" ([2 Tim. 1:12](#)).

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through the faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" ([1 Peter 1:4-5](#)).

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" ([Jude 24](#)).

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" ([Rev. 3:10](#)).

"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" ([Genesis 28:15](#)).

"For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off" ([Psalm 37:28](#)).

"Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep" ([Psalm 121:4](#)).

2. There is the assurance of faith. We are kept not only by God, but.....
 - a. by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. by our faith in God's power.

No person shall ever receive the hope of eternal life or of God's glorious inheritance unless he truly believes in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Belief in Christ is absolutely essential. But once we have truly trusted Christ as our Savior, we are saved; we shall receive eternal life and the great inheritance of God's promise.

But note: a true faith is a *continuing faith and trust* in God's power. And a *continuing faith* is diligent and vigilant. It is a faith that loves Christ with all its heart and life. It is a faith that seeks to follow Christ and to please Him in all that it does. Therefore, a continuing faith is a faith that lives a holy, righteous, and pure life and that serves the Lord Jesus Christ.

Simply stated, the person who truly believes in Jesus Christ gives *all he is and has* to the Lord Jesus Christ: he gives *all that he is and has* to spread the love of Christ around the world. True faith is a real commitment that obeys and follows Christ and that trusts the power of God to deliver him through all the trials and temptations of life. This is the kind of faith that keeps a person. The person who has this kind of faith has the assurance that he will receive eternal life and the promise of the inheritance. God gives the true believer this kind of assurance.

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" ([John 3:15](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" ([John 5:24](#)).

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" ([John 11:25](#)).

"I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness" ([John 12:46](#)).

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through his name" ([John 20:31](#)).

"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" ([Acts 10:43](#)).

"And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" ([Acts 13:39](#)).

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" ([Acts 16:31](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" ([Romans 10:9](#)).

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" ([2 Tim. 3:15](#)).

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" ([1 John 5:1](#)).

HOW TO BE SECURE THROUGH SUFFERING: KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED, 1 Peter 1:1-12

C. Know the Truth About Trials and Temptations, 1 Peter 1:6-9

(1 Peter 1:6-9) Introduction: this passage is one of the great passages dealing with the trials and temptations of believers.

1. **Know the fact: life is full of trials and temptations (v.6).**
2. **Know the purpose for trials and temptations (v.7).**
3. **Know how to conquer trials and temptations (v.8-9).**

1. (1 Peter 1:6) Trials—Temptations: know the fact—life is full of trials and temptations.

Any thinking person can look around and see that life is bombarded with all kinds of trials and temptations. **There are all kinds of trials, such as.....**

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| a. sickness | g. ridicule |
| b. disease | h. abuse |
| c. suffering | i. loss |
| d. sorrows | j. disappointment |
| e. criticism | k. emptiness |
| f. loneliness | |

There are also all kinds of temptations **such as.....**

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. greed | j. immorality |
| b. selfishness | k. sorcery |
| c. hoarding | l. indulgence |
| d. drunkenness | m. backbiting |
| e. deceit | n. whispering |
| f. strife | o. revellings |
| g. drugs | p. envy |
| h. anger | q. jealousy |
| i. gluttony | r. uncleanness |

The list of trials and temptations in the world are as unlimited as acts of behavior. For every act there can be the sin of too much or the sin of too little, the sins of commission or the sins of omission. Life is fraught with trials and temptations.

This is especially true with genuine believers, for believers stand in opposition to the selfish, immoral, greedy, and unjust ways of the world. This goes against the grain of the world because the world is in opposition to God. Just note the world's cursing of God and its flaunting of sex even for advertising purposes. These are excellent examples of the world's opposition to God.

Therefore, the world often persecutes believers who proclaim the need for man to turn to God. The world persecutes believers through ridicule, mockery, abuse, and silence; through bypassing them, holding them down, shutting them out, and ignoring them; through confiscating their property, destroying their reputation, and in some cases imprisoning and killing them. Every genuine believer who lives for Christ knows what it is to be shunned and withdrawn from and to be persecuted to some degree, no matter what society he lives in.

This was the case with the believers to whom Peter was writing. They were being severely persecuted because of their stand for Christ. They had been forced to flee for their lives and to leave everything behind: homes, property, estates, businesses, jobs, money, church, friends, and fellow believers. They were suffering trial after trial, experiencing what we see so often portrayed in the media: people flooding the roadways fleeing with whatever possessions they can carry by hand, fleeing the tyranny of the persecution of dictators and evil men. The difference with believers is that they often suffer at the hands of people because of their testimony for Christ. And this was, in fact, the case with the early believers who were receiving this letter from Peter.

As stated, the fact of trials and temptations is clear to any thinking person: we live in a world of trials and temptation. In addition, the believer has to bear the added trial of persecution because of his testimony for Christ.

Now, note two things that are said.

1. Trials and temptations are only for a season; they are only for a little while, for a short time. The idea is that our salvation is at hand; we shall soon be delivered from the sufferings of this earth. Therefore, we can stand up under whatever suffering is attacking us.

2. Trials and temptations cause a heaviness within us. The word "**heaviness**" (*lypeō*) **means "to be grieving; to suffer sorrow, stress, pressure, and mental anguish"**. We all know what it is to feel heavy and weighed down with grief; to suffer stress and pressure; to be mentally in anguish, wondering, questioning, and suffering under the weight of trial or temptation.

Thought 1. This is a dark picture of the world and of life, a picture of all kinds of trials and temptations. But we must face reality; it is a fact. As we walk throughout life, we are bombarded with all kinds of trials and temptations. Our human experience proves it. But why face it? Why think about it? Why not ignore the fact, think positively, and look at only the good and move on? There is one reason: facts cannot be handled unless they are dealt with. Ignoring and denying trials and temptations will not conquer them, not permanently and not eternally. The only way we can ever conquer anything—no matter the trial or temptation—is to squarely face it and fight against it. The way to conquer the trials and temptations of life is the subject of this great passage.

"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" ([Acts 14:22](#)).

"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience" ([Romans 5:2-3](#)).

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" ([Romans 7:15](#)).

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)).

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair" ([2 Cor. 4:8](#)).

"For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know" ([1 Thes. 3:4](#)).

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" ([Rev. 2:9-10](#)).

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" ([Job 14:1](#)).

"Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights" ([Psalm 119:143](#)).

2. (1 Peter 1:7) Trials—Temptations: know the purpose for trials and temptations.

When a believer is saved, why does God not just go ahead and give him a trouble-free, perfect life? Sometimes it would seem that God should do this. If God loves us and really cares for us then He should not let terrible things happen to us. **Why does God let them happen? Why do the trials and temptations of life fall upon us, especially with such heaviness and sorrow?**

Scripture says there are **two reasons** why the believer is tried and tempted.

1. The believer's faith must be tried. The word "tried" (*dokimazō*) means “to prove; to test; to strengthen; to show that your faith is genuine” (A.T. Robertson, [Word Pictures In The New Testament, Vol.6. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933, p.83](#)).

It is just like gold. Gold has to be put to the fire in order to clean out all the impurities and dross and to make it pure and clean. Now note what this verse says: we are much more precious than gold. Gold perishes, but not believers. Believers are to live forever. Therefore, if gold has to be put to the fire to be made clean and pure, how much more do we?

The point is striking: God uses the fire of trials and temptations for a good purpose. He uses them to make us clean and pure and to make us trust Him more and more.

When we are faced with some trial or temptation, we draw nearer to God. We cry out to God more than when things go well. We even tend to clean up our lives in order to secure His help as we go through the trial. We just live more pure, clean, and righteous lives. In fact, the greater the trial and temptation, the more we see that we need God. And the more we see our need for God, the closer we usually draw to Him; and the closer we draw to Him, the cleaner we live. The fire of trials causes us to live more pure and clean lives and to learn to trust God more and more.

This is a most wonderful point: our trials and temptations are purposeful. God uses them to make us much more pure and to stir us to draw closer and closer to Him and to trust Him more and more. We become a stronger person through trials—much stronger, much more steadfast, persevering, and enduring.

There is another fact that should be noted as well. When our faith is tried and proven, when we walk strongly through the trials and temptations of life, the world sees it. They see the power of Christ in our lives and the rejoicing of our hearts in Him. Some are attracted and want to know Christ for themselves. Standing fast through the trials and temptations of life wins people to Christ. God uses the trials and sufferings of life to pour His strength into us and to attract the lost to want Him in their lives.

"For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried" ([Psalm 66:10](#)).

"Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction" ([Isaiah 48:10](#)).

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old" ([Isaiah 63:9](#)).

"He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock" ([Luke 6:48](#)).

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" ([1 Cor. 3:13](#)).

"Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress" ([Psalm 17:3](#)).

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word" ([Psalm 119:67](#)).

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God" ([Zech. 13:9](#)).

"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness" ([Malachi 3:3](#)).

"But he knoweth the way that I take when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" ([Job 23:10](#)).

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" ([Hebrews 12:11](#)).

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" ([1 Peter 1:7](#)).

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you" ([1 Peter 4:12](#)).

2. The believer's faith is tried in order to show forth the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus Christ and of the believer.

When Jesus Christ appears—when He returns to earth—**two things are going to be seen.**

- a. First,** Jesus Christ is going to be seen exalted higher than the heavens themselves; He is going to be seen in all the honor and glory of the universe.
- b. Second,** believers are going to be seen exalted higher than anyone could ever ask or even think; they are going to be exalted in the very same honor and glory of Christ Himself. They are going to be seen as joint-heirs with Christ in receiving all the inheritance that God Himself possesses. Just imagine! All the honor and glory that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself possesses shall be poured out upon believers.

This is the reason God allows us to suffer trials and temptations on earth: not only to make us more pure and stronger, but to prepare us more for the honor and glory of heaven. The more we suffer here on earth, the more we ache for heaven. There is also the idea of vindication, of proving that the claims of Christ and of our faith in His claims are true. In that glorious day when Christ returns, the world of unbelievers—all of them—will see once for all that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and that our faith in Him is real. Christ and His followers will be vindicated. Christ and all believers shall be exalted in the honor and glory of all the worlds and of all the dimensions of beings. And all unbelievers shall witness the glorious event.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" ([Matthew 5:11-12](#)).

"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" ([Matthew 13:43](#)).

"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" ([Luke 12:37](#)).

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" ([John 14:3](#)).

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" ([Romans 8:17](#)).

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" ([2 Cor. 4:17](#)).

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" ([Phil. 3:21](#)).

"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" ([Col. 3:4](#)).

"That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" ([2 Thes. 2:12](#)).

"For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance" ([Hebrews 10:34](#)).

"Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" ([Hebrews 11:26](#)).

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away" ([1 Peter 5:4](#)).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" ([1 John 3:2](#)).

3. (1 Peter 1:8-9) Trials—Temptations: know how to conquer trials and temptations.

The trials and temptations of life are not to defeat or discourage us. On the contrary, we are to conquer them. We are to use them as stepping stones to become stronger and stronger in life. **But how? How can we conquer trials and temptations when they are so devastating, destructive, powerful, damaging, and threatening?**

Scripture gives four ways.

1. Trials and temptations are to be conquered by our love for Jesus Christ. We do not see Christ, but we love Him. Think about it: we have transgressed God's law. We have ignored, neglected, and disobeyed God; rejected and cursed God. We have even committed high treason and rebelled against God. Therefore, we are guilty and must bear the judgment and condemnation. We must bear the punishment for our rebellion against God. We are to die without God—to be exiled and cut off from God forever and ever. But note the glorious love of Jesus Christ.

He has stepped forward and offered Himself as a substitute and sacrifice for us. Jesus Christ has taken our guilt upon Himself. He has died for us; He has borne our judgment, condemnation, and punishment. No one could ever do any greater thing for us than what Jesus Christ has done. He has loved us supremely: He has died for us even when we have rejected and disbelieved Him. This is the great love of Jesus Christ for us. And this is the reason we love Him. We love Him because He has done so much for us—gone to the ultimate limit to save us by bearing the judgment for us.

Now, note what the verse says: we have not seen Him, but we love Him. We do not have to see Christ to stand up for Him and to please Him. Christ does not have to be standing over our shoulder for us to stand against trials and temptations.

We love Christ; therefore, we.....

- a. obey Him
- b. keep His commandments
- c. turn away from temptations
- d. walk through trials

It is our love for Christ that stirs us to stand up for Christ against all the trials and temptations of life, no matter how severe and ferocious they are. True love does all it can to keep from hurting the person loved. In fact, when we love someone, we do all we can to please that person, no matter what it may cost us—even if it costs us our life. So it is with our love for Christ. If we truly love Him, then we will never hurt Him—not by displeasing Him, not if we can help it.

On the contrary, if we really love Christ, we do exactly what He says: we stand against all the destructive trials and temptations that devastate human life and doom it for eternity. We stand and bear all the sufferings in order to prove the power of Christ. We want some people to see the power of Christ and the great hope He gives—we want them to see so that they will turn to Him for salvation. How do we overcome trials and temptations? First, we conquer them by our love for Christ.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" ([John 14:15-16](#)).

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" ([John 14:23](#)).

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love....Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" ([John 15:10, 14](#)).

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity" ([Ephes. 6:24](#)).

"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints" ([Philemon 4-5](#)).

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" ([1 Peter 1:8](#)).

2. Trials and temptations are to be conquered by our belief in Jesus Christ.

Again, note the verse: we do not see Jesus, but we do believe in Him. The word "believing" (*pisteuō*) is in the present continuous tense. That is, it is continuous action, continuous belief—a belief that continues on and on in believing and trusting in Jesus

Christ. The point is clear: if we are continuing to believe in Jesus Christ, then we are following Christ.

We are doing what He says.....

- a. rejecting and turning away from all temptations.
- b. standing firm and relying upon His presence and power to conquer and to carry us through all trials.

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" ([John 6:28-29](#)).

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" ([Ephes. 6:16](#)).

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" ([James 1:2-6](#)).

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" ([James 2:17](#)).

"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment" ([1 John 3:23](#)).

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" ([1 John 5:4-5](#)).

3. Trials and temptations are to be conquered by rejoicing and by the unspeakable joy that fills our hearts. The unspeakable joy of Christ is not always present, but it often is. We are creatures of emotion, creatures who do not experience any one feeling for more than a brief period. But every genuine believer experiences the unspeakable joy here and there. Words cannot describe it: it is just being full of glory, just as Scripture says in this verse. Matthew Henry states:

"This joy is inexpressible, it cannot be described by words; the best discovery is by an experimental taste of it; it is full of glory, full of heaven. There is much of heaven and the future glory in the present joys of...Christians" ([Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol.6, p.1007](#)).

The point is this: joying and rejoicing in the Lord and His presence will stir us to stand against temptations and trials. Joy and rejoicing will help us to focus upon Christ and His glorious power.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" ([John 15:11](#)).

"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" ([John 16:24](#)).

"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" ([Acts 5:41](#)).

"And when they had laid many stripes unto them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" ([Acts 16:23-25](#)).

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" ([Romans 14:17](#)).

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" ([2 Cor. 6:10](#)).

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" ([Phil. 4:4](#)).

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" ([Hebrews 10:24](#)).

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" ([Hebrews 12:3](#)).

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" ([1 Peter 4:12-13](#)).

"Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them" ([Psalm 126:2](#)).

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" ([Isaiah 61:10](#)).

4. Trials and temptations are to be conquered by keeping our eyes focused upon the salvation of our souls. This is the end, the very goal toward which we are moving, the salvation of our souls. As in any work or task, we must keep our eyes upon the goal. The more focused we are upon the goal, the stronger we become to stand against all obstacles. So it is with salvation.

The more we focus upon the salvation of our souls, **the stronger we become**.....

- a. to reject and turn away from temptation.
- b. to conquer the trials of life.

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" ([Matthew 10:22](#)).

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:18](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" ([John 5:24](#)).

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" ([Romans 8:1](#)).

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" ([Romans 8:34](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" ([Romans 10:9-10](#)).

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" ([James 1:21](#)).

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" ([2 Peter 1:10-11](#)).

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" ([Rev. 22:14](#)).

HOW TO BE SECURE THROUGH SUFFERING: KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED, 1 Peter 1:1-12

D. Know the Wonder and Greatness of Salvation, 1 Peter 1:10-12

(1 Peter 1:10-12) **Introduction:** this is a great description of salvation. It describes the wonder and greatness of salvation, the glorious truth that God saves men from death and exalts them into the glories of heaven. Salvation is so glorious a work that even the angels are aroused to look into it and to understand what it means (1 Peter 1:12).

1. **Salvation required special men, special prophets, to share the message (v.10).**
2. **Salvation was to be the personal experience of God's grace (v.10).**
3. **Salvation was a mystery (v.11).**
4. **Salvation was to be wrought by the sufferings and glory of the Messiah (v.11).**
5. **Salvation was destined for future believers (v.12).**
6. **Salvation is now proclaimed in the gospel (v.12).**
7. **Salvation is so glorious that it arouses the angels to understand and look into it (v.12).**

1. (1 Peter 1:10) **Salvation— Prophets: salvation required special men, special prophets, to proclaim the message.**

The message of salvation was so important that a whole new order of men was required to proclaim it: that of prophets.

The prophets were men who were called and chosen by God to do two things:

- a. to *proclaim* God's salvation to man.
- b. to *prophesy and predict* how God was going to save man.

Both functions were necessary. The prophet had to proclaim salvation to the people of his own generation and to predict how God was going to save the people of all generations. But note this: the predictions of the future salvation were not the prophet's own predictions. **He had not been called to proclaim his own ideas and message;** he had been called to proclaim the salvation of God Himself. He was a man given a very special call, a call to the most important task in all the world: the task of proclaiming the glory and wonder of God's salvation. God was making it possible for man to be saved and to live eternally.

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe" ([John 1:6-7](#)).

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come" ([Matthew 22:2-3](#)).

"And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind" ([Numbers 16:28](#)).

"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face" ([Deut. 34:10](#)).

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" ([Isaiah 6:8](#)).

"Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me" ([Isaiah 48:16](#)).

"And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear" ([Jeremiah 25:4](#)).

"I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me" ([Jeremiah 35:15](#)).

2. (1 Peter 1:10) Salvation— Grace: salvation was to be the personal experience of God's grace.

Grace is the favor of God showered upon men—men who do not deserve His favor. **Grace is the mercy and love that God gives to men who.....**

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| a. ignore Him | f. disbelieve Him |
| b. neglect Him | g. rebel against Him |
| c. disobey Him | h. transgress against Him |
| d. curse him | i. sin against Him |
| e. reject Him | j. fail to love Him |

This, of course, includes us all, for we have all *come short of God's glory*. We are all imperfect; we all have the seed of corruption within our bodies that causes us to age, deteriorate, and move ever so rapidly toward the grave. But this is the grace of God: a way has been provided for us to be counted perfect—a way for the seed of corruption to be removed out of our body and to be replaced with a seed of incorruption—a way for us to be delivered from death and to live forever. **How? By God's grace.** The grace of God is the message of eternal salvation. We can now be saved from death and judgment—eternally saved—by experiencing God's grace.

"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" ([Acts 15:11](#)).

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 3:24](#)).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" ([Titus 2:11](#)).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" ([Titus 3:5-7](#)).

3. ([1 Peter 1:11](#)) Salvation: salvation was a mystery.

The prophets did not understand all that God was telling them to proclaim. Note the verse: in particular, they did not know when the Messiah would be sent to earth. The Greek scholar **A.T. Robertson** states it well: "The prophets knew what they prophesied, but not at what time the Messianic prophecies would be fulfilled" (**A.T. Robertson. [Word Pictures In The New Testament, Vol.6, p.85](#)**).

The prophets prayed and asked God time and again, and they diligently sought to understand the age when the Messiah would be sent to save man. They wanted to know what the age would be like, the characteristics and signs of the time.

- a. They wanted to know the very same thing that the Lord's disciples wanted to know when they asked about the Lord's return: "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" ([Matthew 24:3](#)).
- b. They wanted to know the very same thing that believers want to know today when they discuss the Lord's return: When is Christ going to return and what are the signs of His return?

The picture is this: they actually hungered and thirsted to understand all they could about God's promised Messiah and salvation. They prayed and diligently sought, sought just as diligently as miners who dig and dig down through the earth and then drill and drill through the rock until they reach the pure ore (**Matthew Henry. [Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol.6, p.1008](#)**).

Thought 1. What a challenge to us! If these great men of God had to search and search for the truth of God's Word and salvation, how much more do we? We are without excuse. We have the prophets as dynamic examples of men who hungered after God's salvation.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter" ([John 13:7](#)).

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" ([John 16:12](#)).

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures)" ([Romans 1:1-2](#)).

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" ([Romans 16:25](#)).

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" ([1 Cor. 13:12](#)).

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit" ([Ephes. 3:5](#)).

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" ([2 Tim. 2:15](#)).

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" ([1 Peter 2:2-3](#)).

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" ([1 John 3:2](#)).

4. (1 Peter 1:11) Salvation— Jesus Christ, Death: salvation was to be wrought by the sufferings and glory of the Messiah.

The Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, told the prophets that God was going to save man by doing two things.

1. God would send the Messiah into the world to die for man's transgressions; the Messiah would take the guilt of man's transgressions upon Himself and bear the judgment and punishment of man's guilt.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" ([Isaiah 53:4-6](#); cp. [Psalm 22](#); [Isaiah 52:13-15](#); [Isaiah 53:1-12](#)).

"But those things, which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" ([Acts 3:18](#)).

2. God would raise up the Messiah from the dead and exalt Him to the throne of God Himself.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it" ([Isaiah 25:8](#). Fulfilled in [1 Cor. 15:54](#).)

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" ([1 Cor. 15:54](#)).

"For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited" ([Isaiah 54:3](#). Fulfilled in [Acts 13:34](#).)

"And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David" ([Acts 13:34](#)).

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" ([Psalm 16:10](#). Fulfilled in [Acts 2:25-28, 31](#).)

"For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance....He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption" ([Acts 2:25-28, 31](#)).

"Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: that Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles" ([Acts 26:22-23](#)).

"Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" ([Luke 24:25-27](#)).

5. (1 Peter 1:12) Salvation— Fulness of Time: salvation was destined for future believers, for all who have lived since Christ came.

The prophets proclaimed salvation through the coming Messiah. They even proclaimed that He was to suffer and die and be raised and exalted to God's right hand. But they never had the privilege to see Christ nor to know exactly how He would suffer and be raised from the dead and exalted. The fullness of time—zero B.C. and A.D.—had not yet happened. But now it has: the fullness of time has come and God has sent forth His Son, made of a woman, to redeem all mankind. Salvation and the full picture of how the Messiah would die for the sins of the world are now known. All men are, therefore, without excuse if they refuse the wonder and greatness of God's eternal salvation.

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" ([Galatians 4:4-6](#)).

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" ([James 5:7](#)).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).

"I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD" ([Genesis 49:18](#)).

"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" ([Isaiah 25:9](#)).

"Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our souls is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee" ([Isaiah 26:8](#)).

"O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble" ([Isaiah 33:2](#)).

6. (1 Peter 1:12) Salvation— Gospel: salvation is now proclaimed in the gospel.

The word *gospel means* "good news and good tidings". It is the glorious message of God's salvation, of the death of Jesus Christ who died for our sins and was raised again for our justification.

It is the glorious news that if we truly believe in Jesus Christ, **then.....**

- a. God counts our faith as the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are able to stand before God as righteous, as acceptable to Him.

- b. God counts us as having already died in the death of Jesus Christ. Therefore, having died in Christ, we never have to die. We shall never taste or experience death. When we are ready to depart this world, in the blink of an eye God will transfer us into heaven and into His very presence.

This is the gospel, the good news of God's eternal salvation. **The duty of man is clear:** he must believe the gospel and commit his total being to Christ Jesus the Lord and begin to follow and live for Him. **Note a significant fact: salvation is the good news of God. It is not the ideas, opinions, and thoughts of a man.** Men may have their own ideas about how man can be saved, but their ideas are just that—ideas. Their thoughts are not the thoughts of God; their good news is not the good news of God. The end result of their ideas and opinions is the grave. No man can save men—not beyond the grave. At most, all man can do is delay and extend life a little while longer. No man can give life to any other man. The messages of men about life and the salvation of life are meaningless and empty.

The only gospel that is true is God's gospel. His gospel and His gospel alone is the gospel of salvation. The *wonder and greatness of salvation* is just this: God has loved us and spoken to us. He has loved us so much that He has sent His Son into the world to die for us and to save us. God has saved us; He has spoken to us in His Son—spoken the glorious gospel of eternal salvation.

"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:15-16](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" ([John 5:24](#)).

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" ([John 20:31](#)).

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" ([Romans 5:1](#)).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" ([Romans 10:9-10](#)).

"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" ([Galatians 3:6](#)).

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" ([Matthew 24:14](#)).

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" ([Mark 16:15](#)).

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" ([1 Cor. 15:1-4](#)).

7. ([1 Peter 1:12](#)) Salvation— Angels: salvation is so glorious that it arouses the angels to understand and look into it.

The angels are not able to experience salvation, for they are of the spiritual world. But what God is doing in salvation is so astounding and glorious that they stand in stark amazement at God's workings.

Thought 1. No believer, layman or minister, should ever treat the gospel of salvation lightly. **It is so glorious and so astounding that it demands the utmost diligence and effort.....**

- a. in studying
- b. in witnessing
- c. in praying
- d. in living
- e. in teaching and preaching
- f. in ministering and serving

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" ([Romans 11:33](#)).

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" ([Romans 14:11](#)).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" ([Phil. 2:9-11](#)).

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seal thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, worthy is the

Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" ([Rev. 5:9-13](#)).

Deeper Study #1, Sanctification—1 Peter 1:15-16

(1 Peter 1:15-16) Holy— Saint— Sanctification: (*hagios*): all three of these words and their various forms (**holiness, saints, and sanctification**) are translated from one Greek word *hagios*. Its Hebrew equivalent is *kadosh*. It is difficult to translate into English although its meaning is easy to grasp. Its basic meaning is to be separated, set apart, and different. Morally, it means pure, sinless, righteous, holy. Something holy is set apart, separated, different from all other persons or things. It is something that God has set aside for Himself. Man cannot set it aside as holy. It has to be set aside by God Himself.

A study of the word *holy* shows the movement of God in history.

1. God is said to be preeminently and supremely holy ([Luke 1:49](#); [John 17:11](#); [1 Peter 1:15](#)). He possesses an incomparable majesty, so supremely majestic that there are beings who do nothing but surround His throne day and night singing out the praises of His holiness ([Isaiah 6:1](#); [Rev. 4:8](#)).
2. Things that have a special connection to God are said to be holy. The ground upon which Moses stood when God confronted him was said to be holy ([Exodus 3:1-5](#); [Acts 7:33](#)). The temple was said to be holy ([Matthew 24:15](#)), and the Holy of Holies in particular was holy ([Hebrews 9:2-3](#)). The mount where Christ was transfigured was called holy ([2 Peter 1:18](#)). The covenant that God made with Abraham was holy ([Luke 1:35](#)). The gospel and Scriptures are called holy ([Matthew 7:6](#); [Romans 1:2](#)). Anything that becomes associated with God is set apart unto God in a very special sense and becomes different from other things.
3. The Jews are called a *holy nation* ([Exodus 19:6](#)). They were set apart in a very special way to God. The Old Testament deals primarily with the Jews and their special relationship to God: "Ye shall be holy unto me; for I, the Lord, am holy, and have separated you from other people, that ye should be mine" ([Leviticus 20:26](#); cp. [Daniel 7:18, 22](#)).

a. The Jewish people were *holy* in that they were to be different from other nations, different in that they were to believe God and serve Him faithfully. God knew them in a very special way above all the nations of the earth.

b. The Jewish priesthood was *holy*, different from other men ([Leviticus 21:6](#)). The people's tithe or tenth was *holy*, different from other money and goods and used for different purposes ([Leviticus 27:30, 32](#)). The temple was *holy*, different from other buildings ([Exodus 26:33](#)).

But note this: the Jews refused to play the part in history that God wanted them to play. The Old Testament is a continuous record of their rejection of God's will. And when God sent His Son into the world, they committed the supreme and lasting rejection. They refused to acknowledge Him and put Him to death.

4. Jesus Christ is said to be holy in a very special way.

a. Before His birth, the angel said to Mary, "**That holy One who shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God**" ([Luke 1:35](#)).

b. Mary worshipped Him in song and praise before His birth saying, "**Holy is His name**" ([Luke 1:49](#)). He was the only begotten Son of God, *holy*, revered, and worthy of veneration and worship.

c. The people recognized that He was *sanctified* by God ([John 10:36](#); cp. [John 6:69](#)).

d. The mentally ill and demon-possessed recognized Him as the Holy One of God ([Mark 1:24](#); [Luke 4:34](#)).

e. The church worshipped Him as "**the Holy Child of God**" ([Acts 4:27, 30](#)).

Note this: Jesus Christ Himself was the transition from God's dealing with the Jewish nation as holy to a new people as holy.

When the Jews rejected God's Son, they showed their ultimate refusal to follow God, to be holy and separated unto Him. Therefore, God had no choice but to raise up another people to be separated unto Him. The new people are those of all nations and peoples who believe and follow Christ as the Lord of their lives.

5. The church is now said to be the holy people of God. The privileges and responsibilities of following God were taken from Israel and given to the church ([John 17:14, 16](#); [Romans 11:16](#)).

a. The church is called *a holy nation* and a *royal or holy priesthood*, a people made up of genuine believers from all nationalities and languages and races ([1 Peter 2:5, 9](#)).

b. The church is a people who set themselves apart unto God as holy and separated and different, who utterly trust Him and abandon themselves to follow Him.

c. The church is now the dwelling place for God's presence. Believers are being built "**together for a habitation of God through the Spirit**" ([Ephes. 2:21-22](#)). The church in some unique and spiritual sense, by an act of God, becomes the very body of Christ ([Ephes. 1:22-23](#)). The church, the body of believers when meeting together locally, now replaces the temple of the Old Testament (see [1 Cor. 3:16](#)).

6. But there is something even more precious and hallowed to real believers. The body of the individual believer becomes holy, for the Spirit of God dwells within the believer's body ([1 Cor. 6:19-20](#)). The body of the believer becomes the dwelling place for God's very presence, and the body replaces the holy of holies within the inner sanctuary of the temple. Thus, believers are called *saints or holy ones* ([Acts 9:13](#), [32](#), [41](#); [Acts 26:10](#); [Romans 1:7](#).)