Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope

Our Lord Will Return Soon (4:7 – 5:11)

Round-table Questions / Exercises

Answer the following questions and please be prepared to share with the larger group…

1. If you were here last week, share a few insights or observations of Peter's instructions how we should properly focus during inevitable suffering?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:10 – 11a. What other guidance does Peter provide us to navigate that? Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Are you using yours? If so, how? If not, why?
3. What are spiritual gifts to be used for? How are we to employ them? What categories of gifts exist?
4. What have been the most challenging things you have learned about your gift and employing it? Most encouraging/exciting?
5. According to Peter in verse 11b, why should we do these things?

1 Peter

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

- Introduction
  Peter 's Life & Background Overview
- Salutation (1:1 – 2)
  Our Election into Grace
- Our Past: Remember Our Anchor… (1:3 – 2:10)
  We Have so Great a Salvation
- *Our Present: Remember Our Testimony… (2:11 – 4:6)*
  How We Navigate Life Really Matters
- Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope… (4:7 – 5:11)
  Our Lord Will Return Soon
- Closing (5:12 – 14)
  Greetings, Benediction & Review

Our Focus During Suffering

Learning Objectives:

To develop confidence amid growing threats from an unbelieving and evermore hostile world so that we will…

- *Not be surprised but be ready*
- *Properly focus during inevitable suffering*
- *Crystallize what our motivation should be*

Our Focus During Suffering
1 Peter 4:7-11

- Our Incentive (7a)
  - *"The end of all things is at hand"*
- Our Instructions (7b-11a)
  - *"… therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"*
  - *"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint"*
  - *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies"*
- Our Inspiration (11b)
  - *"… so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

Our Incentive (7b-11a)

"The end of all things is at hand"

- Do you believe this? Why or why not?
  If so, everything we are comfortable with is about to change! When people's comfort zones are rocked, we react in only one of two ways:
  - We will either bless or we will curse God
  - Either way, the greatest opportunity for ministry and service to God and people is about to be unveiled… are you ready?
- *"the end"* – means to "*finish*" or to "*bring to a close*" or the "limit at which a thing ceases to be"
- In 64–68 AD, Nero was on the warpath having made Christians a scapegoat for burning Rome and a few short years later in 70 AD, Jerusalem and the temple would be decimated
- Peter and Paul were martyred during this time; for them and the early believers, the *"end of all things"* was clearly at hand

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

"… therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"

- Focus on Communion/Intimacy with God
  - *"Sound judgment"* – comes from a term that means to be *"in one's right mind"*, *"under control"*, *"sane"*, and *"self-controlled"*
  - It also means to *"not carried away by an errant view of oneself"* or *"undue emotion or uncontrolled passion"* for anything or anyone but God
  - *"Sober spirit"* – means to be *"spiritually observant"* or to be *"on the alert"* or to be *"watchmen"*
  - Spiritual alertness and godly thinking are crucial for the *"purpose of prayer"*
  - Prayer is accessing ALL the spiritual resources we ever need!

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint"

- Focus on Love for the Body
  - *"Above all"* – refers to the supreme importance of that virtue in our lives as believers
  - *"Fervent"* – denotes stretching or straining and pictures a person exercising a muscle until it is completely exhausted
  - *"Love covers a multitude of sins"*
    - Sacrificial love loves in spite of insult, injury and misunderstanding from others
  - *"Be hospitable to one another"* – refers to being a "lover of strangers"
  - *"Without complaint"* – this speaks of how we are to exercise our hospitality; complaining or grumbling is a sin

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies"

- Focus on Spiritual Service
  - *"As each one has received a special gift"* (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, 14)
  - *"Spiritual gift"* - A supernatural, God-given ability given to each believer at salvation to fulfill a need in the local body of Christ so that it would be built up and made complete/mature in Christ
  - Spiritual gifts are called a *"manifestation of the Spirit"*, meaning that they are physical actions through which the Spirit of God reveals Himself and produces spiritual transformation
  - A Christian filled with the Spirit and mighty power of God will produce spiritual fruit in others through use of spiritual gifts

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Spiritual Service *(Continued)*
  - Key facts about spiritual gifts:
    - Genuine believers in Jesus Christ are ALWAYS given the Holy Spirit and are ALWAYS given a spiritual gift *(not gifts)*
    - Because the Holy Spirit sovereignly superintends their distribution, believers cannot earn, pray for, or in any manner generate them (Acts 8:20)
    - There are numerous different gifts and expressions of gifts, but only one and the same Spirit working in all of them
    - Each gift is unique, like a spiritual snowflake or fingerprint
    - The gifts are always cooperative, and never competitive
    - Spiritual gifts are fundamentally active, not passive *(activities, services)*

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Spiritual Service *(Continued)*
  - Key facts about spiritual gifts: *(Continued)*
    - The Holy Spirit is the source of power, change, and effectiveness, not us; He give us the faith to exercise them
    - The Lord will give us exactly what we need to accomplish His will for our church
    - God has given the right gift along with the right resources in the right person in the right Body of Christ at the right physical location at the right time for the right reason to be utilized as our only right response (obedience), and to be deployed with the only right attitude (humility/selflessness)

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Spiritual Service *(Continued)*
  - *"employ it"* – We are commanded to employ our gift
  - *"in serving one another"* – our gift is meant to be used to serve one another and for the "*common good*" not for serving ourselves
  - *"as good stewards"* – A steward was one who managers the affairs or estate of his owner (1 Corinthians 4:2; Titus 1:7)
    - We are *"good"* when we are faithful by managing our spiritual gift wisely and using it obediently
    - We are sinning when we don't and robbing the Body of all it could be

  - *"of the manifold grace of God"* – God's grace shown in His spiritual gifts demonstrates His beauty found in an embroidered pattern or color variety in flowers or creation; it is multi-faceted, multi-colored, multi-demonstrated, and multi-dimensional

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Spiritual Service *(Continued)*
  - *"Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies"* – Peter provide us two broad categories of spiritual gifts:
    - Speaking gifts
      - Examples: Preaching and teaching, exhortation, or evangelism
      - If using a speaking gift, we must not communicate our own human opinions, but the very *"utterances of God"* as revealed in the Scriptures (Acts 7:38; Romans 3:2)
    - Serving gifts
      - Examples: Leadership/administration, giving, mercy/compassion, or helps/service
      - If using a serving gift, we must not exercise it in our own human power, but by the *"strength which God supplies"* which is in dependence on the Holy Spirit (Philippians 4:13)

Our Instructions (7b-11a)

- Focus on Communion/Intimacy with God
  - *"… therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer"*
- Focus on Love for the Body
  - *"Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint"*
- Focus on Spiritual Service
  - *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies"*

Whiteboard

1 Perspective
2 Passion
From
To
Because of
3 Purpose - Glory of God
4 Place

Our Inspiration (11a)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

- *"so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ"* – Our highest goal, our uppermost affection, our most majestic aspiration, and our transcendent purpose for living must be for the *"glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31)
  - *"Whatever"* or in *"all things"* please God *"through Jesus Christ"* (Matthew 17:2; John 1:14; 10:30; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 1:16-18)
  - Because the *"end of all things is at hand"*, its shadow is upon us
  - Only one ambition will allow us to navigate suffering in a hostile world… *"living for the pleasure of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords"*
- *"to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever"* – Peter breaks into a full doxology that alone befits the context (Psalm 104:31; 113:4; 138:5; Habakkuk 2:14; Romans 11:36; 16:27; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 1:17; Jude 25)
- *"Amen"* – He closes with a term of affirmation that means *"so let it be"*

The Glory of God

The majestic, splendorous, jaw-dropping beauty which emanates from the radiant, out-shining of the aggregated attributes of God's magnetic and infinite character which is manifested in unapproachable, inaccessible, explosive, brilliant, incandescent, lightning white-hot light which no mortal man has ever fully seen or has ever begun to have experienced!!!