1 Peter 4:7 - 11

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

"… a primer for winning the war that really matters"

Our Focus During Suffering (Part 3)

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?

Today's 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*

1 Peter 3:7-11

Our _____ (7a) - *7a The end of all things is at hand*

Our _____ (7b-11a) - *7b therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 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 _____ (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 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 _____ Service
  - *"As each one has received a special gift"* (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, 14)
  - *"Spiritual gift"* - A _____, God-given ability given to each believer at _____ to fulfill a need in the local body of Christ so that it would be built up and made _____/ _____ in Christ

- Spiritual gifts are called a *"_____ of the Spirit"*, meaning that they are _____ 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 _____ in others through use of spiritual gifts
- Key facts about spiritual gifts:
    - Genuine believers in Jesus Christ are ALWAYS given the _____ _____ and are ALWAYS given a spiritual _____ *(not gifts)*
    - Because the Holy Spirit _____ 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 _____ working in all of them
    - Each gift is unique, like a spiritual _____ or _____
    - The gifts are always _____, and never competitive
    - Spiritual gifts are fundamentally _____, not passive *(activities, services)*
    - The Holy Spirit is the source of power, change, and effectiveness, not _____; He give us the faith to exercise them
    - The Lord will give us exactly what we need to accomplish His will for our _____
    - 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)
- *"employ it"* – We are _____ 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 _____

- *"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 _____ by managing our spiritual gift wisely and using it obediently
    - We are _____ 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 _____ found in an embroidered pattern or color variety in flowers or creation; it is multi-faceted, multi-colored, multi-demonstrated, and multi-dimensional
- *"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:
    - _____ 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* _____*"* as revealed in the Scriptures (Acts 7:38; Romans 3:2)
    - _____ 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* _____ *supplies"* which is in dependence on the Holy Spirit (Philippians 4:13)

Our _____ (11a)

- *"so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ"* – Our highest _____, our uppermost _____, our most majestic _____, and our transcendent _____ for living must be for the *"glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)

- *"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 _____ of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords"*

- *"to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever"* – Peter breaks into a full _____ 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!!!