

Bible Study of 1 Peter 1:1-9
St. John Online Bible Study
April 19, 2020

1. What do you know about Peter, the author of this letter? What insight does this knowledge of Peter give to your understanding of this letter?
 1. [Mark 1:35-39](#)
 2. [Luke 5:1-11](#)
 3. [Matthew 10:1-42](#)
 4. [Matthew 14:24-33](#)
 5. [John 6:68-69](#)
 6. [Matthew 17:1-9](#)
 7. [Matthew 18:21-35](#)
 8. [Matthew 19:27-30](#)
 9. [John 13:16-20](#)
 10. [Matthew 26:30-35](#); [Matthew 26:35](#)
 11. [John 18:1-11](#)
 12. [Matthew 26:69-75](#)
 13. [John 20:1-10](#)
 14. [Luke 24:34](#)
 15. [John 21](#)
2. What do you know about the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia?
 1. What does it mean that they were "refugees scattered" in these various places?
 2. What insight does this give you about this letter?
 3. What common ground would you have with these people?
3. What is the purpose of God's election according to this verse? How do the following verses also speak to the purpose of God's election?
 1. Ephesians 2:8-10
 2. 1 Peter 2:9-10
 3. 2 Timothy 1:9
 4. Romans 8:28-30
 5. Ephesians 1:3-10
4. *Grace and peace* is a common greeting in many of the New Testament letters. These words, however, are not throw-away words. They are rich in meaning and offer incredible blessing to us.
 1. Grace means....
 2. Peace means....
 3. Which of these are more meaningful to you? Which of these do you most need at this time?
5. What is the source of living hope?
6. How is living hope different from just plain hope?
7. To what does living hope look forward?
8. What is the promise in verse 5? How do you apply that to our present time and situation?
9. We are urged to *be glad even though we suffer....*
 1. Notice the purpose of these trials (v. 6)
 2. Notice the limitation of these trials (v. 6)
 3. Notice the outcome of facing these trials successfully (v. 7)

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10. Note the purpose of our faith in Jesus: to receive the salvation of our souls. How do we balance that ultimate gift of salvation with God's call to live in the here and now? In other words, this letter is written to people who are in the midst of suffering and challenges. Yet they are to remain hopeful and rejoice and give thanks all the while waiting. ***How is that balance of hoping, rejoicing, giving thanks, and waiting showing up in your life these days?***
11. What is your biggest challenge in that balance?
12. What is your biggest source of strength in maintaining that balance?
13. How alive is your hope?

Hope in Jesus Christ is grounded in his resurrection from the dead. That means that our hope is as alive as Jesus is. And he is very alive. Hope focused on Jesus is truly alive - just as he is alive.

Peter's name is mentioned in the gospels more than anyone except the name of Jesus. No one speaks in the gospels as often as Peter did, and Jesus spoke more to Peter than to any other individual.

- Jesus rebuked Peter more than any other disciple.
- Peter was the only disciple who dared to rebuke Jesus.
- Peter confessed Jesus more boldly and accurately than any other disciple.
- Peter denied Jesus more forcefully and publicly than any other disciple.
- Jesus praised Peter more than any other disciple.
- Jesus addressed Peter as Satan alone among the disciples.

Some of the important mentions of Peter in the record of Biblical history.

- When Jesus woke up early in the morning to pray before the sun came up, Simon Peter led the other disciples on a hunt to find Jesus and tell Him what He should do ([Mark 1:35-39](#)).
- Peter put his nets out at the direction of Jesus to bring in a massive catch of fish ([Luke 5:1-11](#)).
- Peter went on a unique outreach trip with the other disciples ([Matthew 10:1-42](#)).
- Peter stepped out of the boat during a raging storm and walked on the water with Jesus ([Matthew 14:24-33](#)).
- Peter was the one who said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also, we have come to believe and to know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" ([John 6:68-69](#)).
- Peter saw Jesus transfigured in glory, together with Moses and Elijah ([Matthew 17:1-9](#)).
- Peter was the one who asked Jesus how many times we should forgive a brother that sins against us, quoting the high number of "seven times" ([Matthew 18:21-35](#)).
- Peter was the one who asked Jesus, after the encounter with the rich young ruler, what the disciples would receive for giving everything up to follow Jesus ([Matthew 19:27-30](#)).
- Peter was the one who insisted that Jesus would not wash his feet; then he commanded Jesus to wash his whole body! ([John 13:16-20](#)).

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- Peter heard Jesus predict that he would deny Him three times ([Matthew 26:30-35](#)), and Peter replied, “*Even if I have to die with you I will not deny You!*” ([Matthew 26:35](#)), and the rest of the disciples agreed.
- Peter was the one who cut off the *right* ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest, when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus ([John 18:1-11](#)).
- Peter denied Jesus three times, cursing and swearing that he did not even know “the Man,” refusing to even name the name of Jesus ([Matthew 26:69-75](#)).
- Peter was the one who ran with John the disciple to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection, after hearing the report of the women that the body of Jesus was not in its tomb ([John 20:1-10](#)).
- Peter was the one who received a personal visit from the resurrected Jesus on the day of the resurrection ([Luke 24:34](#)).
- Peter received a public restoration of Jesus in front of the other disciples after the resurrection of Jesus ([John 21](#)).

Living Hope

“It is also called a ‘living hope,’ because it is imperishable. Other hopes fade like withering flowers. The hopes of the rich, the boasts of the proud, all these will die out as a candle when it flickers in the socket. The hope of the greatest monarch has been crushed before our eyes; he set up the standard of victory too soon, and has seen it trailed in the mire. There is no unwaning hope beneath the changeful moon: the only imperishable hope is that which climbs above the stars, and fixes itself upon the throne of God and the person of Jesus Christ.”
(Spurgeon)

Trials & Testing

“Indeed, it is the honor of faith to be tried. Shall any man say, ‘I have faith, but I have never had to believe under difficulties’? Who knows whether thou hast any faith? Shall a man say, ‘I have great faith in God, but I have never had to use it in anything more than the ordinary affairs of life, where I could probably have done without it as well as with it’? Is this to the honor and praise of thy faith? Dost thou think that such a faith as this will bring any great glory to God, or bring to thee any great reward? If so, thou art mightily mistaken.” (Spurgeon)

- Faith is tested to show that it is sincere faith or true faith.
- Faith is tested to show the strength of faith.
- Faith is tested to strengthen our character and focus our faith on Jesus.
- Faith is tested to purify it, to burn away the dross from the gold.

Joy

The word translated “**joy inexpressible**” occurs only here in the New Testament, and describes a joy so profound as to be beyond the power of words to express.