

Living with Hope

A Study through

1 & 2 Peter



Calvary Chapel Santee

Women's Ministry

Living With Hope

1 & 2 Peter

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundance mercy has begotten us again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

- 1 Peter 1:3

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How to Use This Study Guide

Before reading the corresponding chapter and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. For greater impact, re-read the chapter in a different Bible translation. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary and a concordance. The following online resources may also be helpful: BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org

The New American Standard Bible (NASB) was used for this Study Guide with consideration of the New King James Version (NKJV) and the Amplified Bible.

Love Note: At the end of the questions, there will be room for you to write a **Love Note** to the Lord Jesus. This will be an important and personal part of this study as you grow in intimacy with Him.

Digging Deeper: Finally, there will be an optional **Digging Deeper** section. The goal here is to help you delve deeper into the practical application of the Bible, God's love letter to us.

- Enjoy -

Introduction to 1 & 2 Peter

Simon Peter was a man of contradictions. He perfectly illustrates what happens when we choose to allow God to change us - *forever!*

Peter walked on water and then sank in it. He was the first to confess that Jesus is the Son of God and minutes later tried to tell Jesus what to do. He promised to lay down his life for Jesus, but within a day denied three times that he ever knew Him! He risked his reputation to share the gospel with Gentiles, but later refused to eat with them. He was called to be a fisher of men, but was more comfortable fishing for fish. His last catch of fish numbered 153, but his first sermon harvested 3,000 souls!

Jesus changed Peter's name, his self-image, his profession, and his prejudices. Jesus changed his expectations, priorities, his family life, and prayer petitions. Jesus changed Peter *completely* and He will change you and me if we will completely surrender to Him.

Peter's life is an illustration of God's promise in Philippians 1:6 - "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Peter shows us that God's good work is not without pain, risk, and hard lessons - nor is it without great joy.

When we ask Jesus to become our personal Lord and Savior, something radically different takes place within. We are a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Transformed by God in our deepest being, we can grow to be who we really are in Jesus Christ. This study of Peter's letters to the first century church, written after walking with Jesus for 30 years, will help you grow in your walk with Him. May this study cause you to grow in the hope that you can be the woman of God He has created you to be!

No other religion, no other philosophy promises new bodies, heart, and minds. Only in the Gospel of Christ do hurting people find such incredible hope.

- Joni Eareckson Tada

[illegible]

Hope as a Habit

Read 1 Peter Chapter One

As we walk this journey with Jesus, there will be circumstances that come our way that challenge our thinking. It is important that we realize that there are reasons for what we go through and hope beyond it. Knowing this can make all the difference.

Hope – sure expectation

1. The theme verse for this study is found in 1 Peter 1:3. In your own words, describe what you think Peter means when he says “born again to a living hope”.
2. Using Psalm 31:24, fill in the blanks.
Be _____ and let your heart take _____, all you who _____ in the LORD.
3. What do Psalm 33:18 and Psalm 38:15 tell us about those who hope in God?
4. Read Psalm 62:5. We all need more hope in our daily lives. What does the psalmist tell us to do in order to receive more hope?
5. We have been adopted into God’s family. As children of the King, there is an inheritance waiting for us. What does 1 Peter 1:4 tell us about our inheritance?
6. In verse 6, Peter says, “In this you greatly rejoice”. What does verse 6 tell us to rejoice in?
7. According to verse 7, what do “various trials” accomplish?

8. We are daughters of the King. Peter gives us excellent instructions in verses 13-16. List the 5 instructions below.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
9. Read verses 18 and 19. Because we were bought with a price, we have a “living hope”. What price was paid?
10. Since the price has been paid and we have been adopted, what does verse 22 encourage us to do?

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul,
a hope both sure and steadfast...

- Hebrews 6:19

Love Note: In your note to Jesus, with gratitude tell Him the hope of your heart.

Digging Deeper: Meditate and comment on the following verses of hope.
Psalm 42:5, Romans 5:2-5, Colossians 1:27, Hebrews 6:18

[illegible]

Hearts of Holiness

Read 1 Peter Chapter Two

In this chapter, Peter makes it clear that through being born again we have a new nature; we are to live in that new nature by the power of the Holy Spirit. We have been brought into a loving relationship with the One whom, having not seen, we love. Our love for Him makes us want to please Him by doing what is right, even if it involves patiently enduring unjust suffering.

Holiness – separation from the world; bearing a character different from ordinary man so as to recognize belonging (dedicated) to and set apart (sanctified) by God.

1. Verse 3 says, "...you have tasted the kindness of the Lord." Because of His kindness, what are we asked to put aside? (verse 1)
2. What does the Lord want us to "long for"? (verse 2)
3. In verses 9-10, there is a contrast between those who are saved and those still in darkness. Since we have received mercy and are now God's people, what are we to proclaim?

*The best way to show my gratitude to God is to
Accept everything, even my problems, with joy.*

- Mother Theresa

4. Living the Christian life is so important. According to verse 12, what is the effect of our "excellent behavior" on those who are watching and observing?

5. God's will, in regards to submitting to authority, is to do right so that "you may silence the ignorance of foolish men". (verse 15) Using verse 17, list the four things we are instructed to do as "bondslaves of God".
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
6. The rest of the chapter (verses 19-25) deals with suffering. Jesus is our prime example of "suffering unjustly". According to verse 20, when we do what is right and suffer for it, patiently enduring it, this finds _____ with God. Twice we are told this in regards to our suffering, as we "follow in His steps".

God is in control, and therefore in EVERYTHING
I can give thanks - not because of the situation
but because of the One who directs and rules over it.

- Kay Arthur

7. Verse 24 tells us that Jesus "bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to _____ and live to _____; for by His wounds you were _____." How comforting to know that we have returned to "the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls"!

Love Note: Jot down a few lines to the Lord asking Him to help you through any challenges you are currently facing.

Digging Deeper: In verses 4-8, Peter gives us a mental image of the church and its members as "living stones" with Jesus Christ as its Cornerstone. How are you, as a member of the church community, contributing to build with others this beautiful "house" for God?

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Harmony in the Home

Read 1 Peter Chapter Three

The world we live in is constantly changing. Because of this, the roles of men and women have become blurred and confusing. God's Word can be trusted because it is pure and right; it is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we allow the truth of God's Word to define our role as women, we are set free and will experience Harmony in our Homes.

Harmony – consistent, orderly, in agreement, of one accord

1. 1 Peter 3:1 is a verse that women throughout the ages have struggled with. Pray and ask God to help you understand this verse and then re-write it in your own words.

2. How do the following verses apply to you?

Ephesians 5:22

1 Corinthians 9:19

3. According to 1 Peter 3:3-6, how did godly women adorn themselves?
4. In verse 6, Peter tells us to submit without fear. According to 1 John 4:18, what is not a part of real love?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:7. Describe how our heavenly Father wants us to be treated.
6. Verses 8-9 describe for us the way to inherit a blessing from God. Look up the following words in a dictionary to gain a better understanding of how we are to live.

harmonious

sympathetic

brotherly

kindhearted

humble

7. Verse 11 gives us another exhortation. Using verse 11, fill in the blanks below:

“He must turn away from _____ and do _____; he must seek _____ and _____ it.”

8. According to John 16:33, in this world we will have tribulation. What do 1 Peter 3:15-16 encourage us to do?

Love Note: Ask the Lord to adorn you with a gentle and quiet spirit. Tell Him about your fears.

Digging Deeper: As we consider what we have learned, consider what practical ways you can bring more harmony into your home. List them here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Handling Hard Times

Read 1 Peter Chapter Four

As a Christian, what value do you put upon life? God permits His children to suffer in order to keep us from sin and to give us a proper value of life. Suffering can give a new direction to life. God puts us through the test that it might draw us to Himself and give us a new direction and drive for life.

Hurt – anything that brings pain to the body, soul, or spirit.

1. Verse 6 describes the first century Christians who were martyred for their faith in Jesus. Even though men had condemned them, now in God's presence they receive their true judgment. According to verse 5, what will those who malign you for proclaiming your faith have to give?

2. Verses 7-10 instruct us how to behave in these "end times". List them below.
verse 7

verse 8

verse 9

verse 10

3. What is the end result? (verse 11b; see also Matthew 5:16)

4. Peter has an interesting perspective on suffering and trials. He tells us "Beloved,
verse 12 do not be _____
verse 13 but keep on _____
verse 14 you are _____
verse 16 he is not to be _____, but is to _____

This hard place in which you perhaps find yourself, is the very place in which God is giving you an opportunity to look only to Him, to spend time in prayer, and to learn long-suffering, gentleness, meekness – in short, to learn the depths of the love that Christ Himself has poured out on all of us.

- Elisabeth Elliot

5. According to verse 17, where does judgment begin?

This judgment may be referring to God's refining discipline. What does Hebrews 12:7 clarify?

6. 1 Peter 4:18 asks what will become of "the godless man and sinner", those who are *not* of the "household of God". How does 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 answer this question?

We all go through pain and sorrow, but the presence of God,
Like a warm, comforting blanket, can shield us and protect us
and allow the deep inner joy to surface,
even in the most devastating circumstances.

- Barbara Johnson

Love Note: Tell Jesus about a trial you are in and how you want Him to use it to change you.

Digging Deeper: 1 Peter 4:1 speaks of Jesus' suffering, then instructs, "arm yourselves also with the same purpose". From verses 1-2, what is the purpose?

How does "suffering in the flesh" help us "cease from sin"?

[illegible]

Humility Brings Honor

Read 1 Peter Chapter Five

*The Bible says that “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). When Jesus described Himself He said, “I am gentle and humble in heart” (Matthew 11:29). The world will never encourage you to be humble. Yet, truly humble people make the greatest leaders. Humility does not mean weakness; it means restrained strength. As we attempt to **Live With Hope**, some baffling circumstances will come our way. During these difficult times, the only way to be able to understand what God is doing will be the road of humility.*

Humility – *modest estimate of one’s own importance. Meek*

1. What do the following verses teach us about humility?

Psalm 25:9

Proverbs 11:2

James 4:10

2. Why do you think humility is an important aspect in the life of a Christian?
3. As ambassadors for Christ, we are called to be leaders. According to 1 Peter 5:1-4, how are leaders to “shepherd the flock”?

*The church cannot conform to the world’s way of leadership.
To manipulate, drive, or manage people is not the same thing as
To lead them like a shepherd. Shepherds lead by example.*

4. Verses 6-7 demonstrate what humility looks like. Explain these verses in your own words to gain a better understanding.

5. We have an adversary who wants to make us angry instead of humble. According to verses 8-9, what three things can we do to gain victory over him?

1.

2.

3.

6. According to verse 10, “after you have suffered for a little while”, what four things will “the God of all grace...Himself” do for you? List and define each one.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Love Note: Confess any pride in your heart. Seek the Lord for a meek and gentle spirit.

Digging Deeper: In verse 12, Peter says to “stand firm” (NASB). As we attempt to **Live With Hope**, what are we to “stand firm” in?

What do you think this means?

[illegible]

Growing With Guidance

Read 2 Peter Chapter One

You can be sure of the Word of God. As you study and share it with others, the Spirit of God will confirm it to your heart and you will experience growth in your spiritual life. Let the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth!

Guidance – *the act of directing another in his conduct or course of life*

1. According to verse 3, what has God’s divine power granted to us?

What does this mean to you?

2. Since we are “partakers of the divine nature” (verse 4), what virtues does Peter tell us to apply to our daily lives? Choose a couple to look up and define.

verse 5

verse 6

verse 7

3. Possessing these qualities enables us to be useful and fruitful. How is the one who “lacks these things” described in verse 9?
4. Using verses 12-16, summarize Peter’s concern and intent in writing “these things”.

5. In verse 19, Peter exhorts his readers to “pay attention”. He assures them that Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit of God (verses 20,21). After his death, Peter wanted them to be able to “call these things to mind” (verse 15). Why was this so important? (See 2 Peter 2:1)

As you learn to trust Him more deeply,
He will develop your character to match bigger tests;
and with greater tests will come a greater love for God
and knowledge of His ways.

- Henry Blackaby

Love Note: Reflect upon Psalm 32:8-9. Ask the Lord Jesus for guidance in one or more specific areas of your life.

Digging Deeper: Record some of “His precious and magnificent promises” (2 Peter 1:4).

[illegible]

Growing in Discernment

Read 2 Peter Chapter Two

The Bible is the greatest tool we have been given to help us recognize false teachers. As we commit ourselves to studying the truth verse by verse, we will become less susceptible to error and Scripture will begin to interpret Scripture for us. We will be able to discern truth from error.

Discernment – *acuteness of insight, judgment, and understanding*

1. Read 2 Peter 1:21. What makes the Bible different from all other books?

How does 2 Timothy 3:16 confirm this?

2. In your own words, write the commands given in Ephesians 4:14-15 and 1 John 4:1.
3. Read 2 Peter 2:1-3. How do these verses describe “false prophets”?
4. Verses 7-8 describe the times in which Lot lived, which also relates to our culture today. What “oppressed” and “tormented” Lot?
5. Although we live in a fallen world and are tempted daily, what encouragement is given in verse 9?

6. In the second half of this chapter, Peter goes into great detail describing the “unrighteous”. Using the following verses, list some of the words and phrases Peter used.

verse 10

verse 13

verse 14

verse 15

verse 18

Love Note: Consider James 1:5-7. Seek the “Father of lights” (James 1:17) for discernment.

Digging Deeper: Read and reflect on what the following verses say about how to find true discernment.

Psalm 1:1-2

Psalm 119:11

1 Peter 2:2

Ephesians 1:17

[illegible]

Growing While Waiting

Read 2 Peter Chapter Three

God's patience in delaying His return in judgment is providing an opportunity for men to be saved. Use time wisely! Spend time with Him, as He is revealed in His Word, and grow in your knowledge of Him that He may also use you to bring others to a saving knowledge of Him.

Waiting – *Staying or resting in expectation until the arrival of some person or event*

1. Peter again reminds us that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God. Peter continues to instruct his readers to “remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and . . . apostles (verse 2). According to verse 4, what were the “mockers” saying?

2. According to verse 8, what had “escaped their notice”?

While it may seem that the “Lord is...slow about His promise” (verse 9), what is the truth?

Christ's second coming will be sudden and terrible for those who do not believe in Him. But if we are believing in Him, are morally clean, and spiritually alert, we need not fear that day. What would you like to be doing when Christ returns? That is how you should be living each day.

3. Since we know the Lord's return is imminent, how are we to conduct ourselves?

verse 11

verse 12

verse 14

wait and hope for and expect the Lord;
be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and
enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.

- Psalm 27:14 (Amplified Bible Classic Edition)

4. How are we to “regard the patience of our Lord” (verse 15)?
5. According to verse 17, why are we to “be on our guard”?
6. To ensure that we are not “carried away” or “fall from our own steadfastness”, what are we to do (verse 18)?

No matter where we are in our spiritual journey, no matter how mature we are in our faith, the sinful world will always challenge our faith. We still have much room for growth. Every day we need to draw closer to Christ so that we will be prepared to stand for truth in any and all circumstances. “To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

***Love Note:** Let God know how you want to be a good steward of your time and ask Him to help you.*

***Digging Deeper:** Memorize this key verse: “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” - 2 Peter 3:9*

[illegible]