

# Daily Devotional

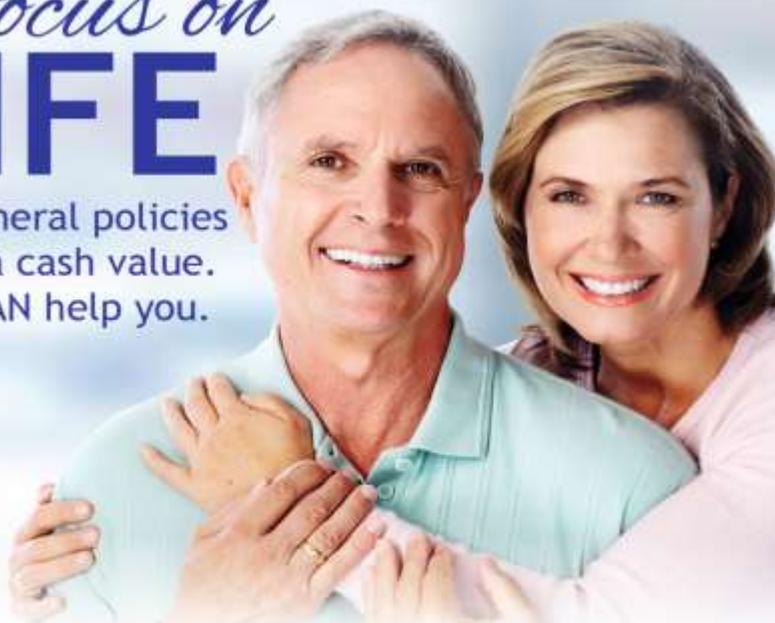
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## Booklet



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## **WEEK 1 : DAY ONE: Letter of Peter - Righteous Living**

### ***Read 1 Peter 1:13 (NLT)***

Chapter 1 verse 13, gives us a clear and concise indication of how we should approach matters. We are encouraged to have clarity of thought and exercise self-control. It is interesting to note that the writer begins this chapter by writing of the call to living a Holy life.

More often than not we may find that when we approach matters without clarity of thought things don't go according to plan. Our words can also cause harm if they are not carefully considered and clearly thought through.

Thus the practises of clear thinking and self-control are some of the things we need to live by and in order chase a Holy lifestyle. While we do this we need to consider and look forward to the gracious salvation that comes from Jesus Christ.

For us to live a life that is righteous we not only need to think clearly and have self-control but we also need to be obedient, obedient to God and the will of God, and by doing so become God's obedient Children. We need to guard ourselves against slipping back to our old ways of living and seeking ways to satisfy our own desires.

In everything that we do, we need to be righteous, we need to be Holy, the same way God has chosen us to be so.

***Prayer: Dear Lord, teach me to obedient to your will.  
Amen***

## **WEEK 1 : DAY TWO: Letter of Peter - Righteous Living**

### ***Read 1 Peter 1:14-16 (NLT)***

The words of Peter from verse 14, suggest that in all parts of our lives and in all parts of our character, we should be in the process of becoming conformed, inwardly and outwardly and doing so to God's standards.

After we have committed our lives to Jesus Christ, there is often a feeling of drifting back to our old ways. Here Peter writes and challenges us to be like our Father that is in Heaven, and be righteous in everything that we do.

What does this mean for us?

It means that we need to be devoted, totally devoted to and fully dedicated to God. We need to set aside special time dedicated to spending with God, and in doing so it will help us become righteous. It means that we need to be set apart from sin and the influences of sin. We are to be set apart and different and not conform to the patterns of this world.

In order to ensure we do not fall back into our old ways we need to surround with friends and accountability partners who will hold us accountable and help us back in line, making sure that we are living a life that is after the righteousness of God.

***Prayer: Dear Lord Help me to not fall for any temptation. Amen***

## **WEEK 1 : DAY THREE: Letter of Peter - Righteous Living**

### ***Read 1 Peter 1:17-19 (NLT)***

Yesterday we looked at how we need to be dedicated to God and live a life that is righteous, a life pleasing to God and considered how to set ourselves apart as children of God.

In today's verse Peter brings across both a warning and a reminder that bring us to a place of being humble.

He reminds us that we are indeed children of the Father in Heaven, and that the Father to whom we pray to has no favourites.

We are reminded by Peter that we are not greater than anyone else, that we are not better than anyone else, nor are we favourites because we have been set apart. In fact it is important to remember that we will still be judged or rewarded as we deserve according to what we do.

The New Living Translation uses the words "Reverent Fear", this refers to how we need to live in that, and that this is a healthy respect of a believer for all powerful God. It is through this healthy respect that we start honouring what God has done for us, for you and I, saving us, how he bought us and ransomed us from the deep hole of sin we were in, doing so not in money but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. His one and only Son. (Romans 6:6-7)

We can not escape the life of sin on our own, only the life of our Lord Jesus Christ has set us free and helped us escape and when we struggle we need to ask for help.

***Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for making it possible for us to come to you in prayer.***

## **WEEK 1 : DAY FOUR: Letter of Peter - Righteous Living**

### ***Read 1 Peter 1:20-25 (NLT)***

It is because of love that we were set free, it is also because of love that we are called to be righteous and into living a life of righteousness. It is because as Peter puts it, of love that we are children of God.

This love is not just like any other love, it is a sincere love, the love that involves selfless giving. God's love and the forgiveness of God free us to take our eyes off ourselves and to meet other people in their difficult times and meet their needs. When Jesus Christ Sacrificed His life for us, He showed us that He truly loves us. We are now challenged to love other people by following this example of Jesus Christ and giving of ourselves sacrificially in order to put other people first.

It is love that will help us strive for the life of righteousness. The love we have for God, the love we have for His creation, the love that we have for other people. In everything that we do we need to put other people first instead of ourselves. Loving our neighbours as we love ourselves.

***Prayer: Dear Lord thank you for your grace. Teach me to put others first before me. Amen***

## **WEEK 1 : DAY FIVE: Letter of Peter - Righteous Living**

### ***Read 1 Peter 2:1-10 (NLT)***

In order for us to live a life of righteousness and a life that is pleasing to God we need to get rid of all the evil behaviour, we need to get rid of the hypocrisy, get rid of all deceit and jealousy, we need to get rid of all unkind speech. Just like it was highlighted yesterday how love is important for righteous living, we need to be aware of things in our lives that cause division towards the Kingdom of God, and in doing so we need to get rid of judgment and get rid of racism. We need to unite and work together.

I love the analogy that Peter uses of new born babies. Babies don't see evil, babies don't see colour, they don't judge and they don't know of any unkind speech. As some parents would say all that babies do is eat, sleep and poo, and when they cry you give them milk and they are happy.

We too need to be like these new born babies, we need to be satisfied when given milk, but our milk is the "spiritual nourishing", that is there to help us grow into the full experience of salvation.

This 'spiritual nourishing', will help us fulfil the call of being set apart, the call of being children of God and the fulfilling the call of loving others and putting them first. This will help us to be the chosen people who are royal priests, being a holy nation and God's very own possession and not forgetting to show others the goodness of God as He has called us out of darkness into the light and calling us to be righteous

***Prayer: Dear Lord, teach me everyday to live a life of righteousness***

## **WEEK 1 : DAY SIX: Letter of Peter - Righteous Living PRAY**

This past week we have focused on the call of living a righteous life. Today we will be praying, praying to be people who strive to be righteous and praying for others

Throughout the day pray and spend some time thinking and time in solitude thinking about each fruit that we have covered in the past weeks and the one we will look at next week.

Below is a guideline that you can use for your prayer time and solitude moment.

### **Guidelines**

- Pray for God to help you show kindness to those around you and to yourself
- Pray for broken relationships, broken friendships, and disconnected families to be connected again and have peace
- Pray for obedience
- Pray for the poor
- Pray for the widows
- Pray for those who are hurting
- Pray for the lonely ones
- Pray for those who are in need
- Pray for the ones who are depressed
- Pray for the Job seekers

***Prayer: Lord in your mercy Hear our prayers.***

## **Letter of Peter - Righteous**

**Welcome:** This week spend some time seeking ways to share kindness and seeking ways to share compassion with a person a day

**Worship:** Spend some time listening to Nothing but the Blood of Jesus. or spend some time outside in God's creation and being still.

**Word:** Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:10 and Romans 6

A righteous life is not that easy, it is challenging, and we need to strive for it and try to live it out. We may fall short but the beauty of it is that we can try again when we fail, this way we will learn to be gentle with ourselves and others and we will start appreciating each other.

### **Work:**

Seek moments where you will spend some time being still, if it is in a garden or in a quiet space where you will seek ways to challenge yourself towards righteous living. If its making a difference in someone else's life and being kind even of it means reminding yourself of what God has done for you and how much He loves you.

## WEEK 2 : Day 1 – Letter of Peter – Faith in Trials

**Reading:** 1 Peter 3: 8-9

*"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."*

If T-Shirts were given out every time we had to endure trials in one way or another, then all of us would have a cupboard full!

But what about our faith? Do we have pockets full?

Peter tells us that we will suffer, so let us suffer with a clear conscience. In this passage Peter calls each one of us to integrity before God, integrity before God's people, and integrity before those we share life with.

Integrity, according to Peter, needs to infuse our relationships with each other. If we expect to reflect the fruit of the Spirit in the world where we are all experiencing trials then we must be able to love each other. Can we reflect on the aspects that Peter shares with us as we face the trials before us:

1) harmony - pursuing the same goals; (2) sympathy - being responsive to others' needs; (3) love - seeing and treating each other as brothers and sisters; (4) compassion - being affectionately sensitive and caring; and (5) humility - being willing to encourage one another and rejoice in each other's successes.

***Prayer: O God, so often I feel overwhelmed by the trials in my life, Strengthen me to display the virtues of Christian living as I seek to endure. Amen Lord in your mercy Hear our prayers.***

## **Week 2 - Day 2 – Peter – Living Righteously**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 3: 10-12

"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

We can sometimes say things that are hurtful, negative and break others down especially when we are under pressure. We complain. We blame. We vent.

Peter is reminding us that in our Spirit we must become an agent of blessing even when we are facing trials.

The Psalmist captures this well. Psalm 34:14

*"He must turn from evil and do good;  
he must seek peace and pursue it."*

When we are facing trials and temptations to look for the easy way out, the shortcut, sometimes we must consciously and deliberately turn away from evil and toward good. Notice that the way of righteousness is not passive. It is a decision.

1. Turn
2. Seek
3. Pursue

To live a Christian life in Peter's day was a struggle and sometimes brought suffering. The same is true today. The Christian life calls for courage and fortitude in the face of evil.

***Prayer: God our Father, help me to turn away from doing harm and give me to do good in all the ways I can.  
Amen***

### **Week 3 - Day 3 – Peter – Suffering**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 3:13-14

*"Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.'"*

Peter calls us to righteousness, because too often Christians have compromised and brought discredit on Jesus. In fact, if we do good, Peter argues, we're more likely to escape harm than if we compromise.

Peter suggests that we should be zealots for doing good. "Eager" "followers" "one who is earnestly committed to a side or cause, enthusiast, adherent, loyalist." But even if we suffer for doing good, God blesses us.

To encourage us when facing difficulty, Peter is reminding us of the wisdom of Prophet Isaiah: "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." When God spoke these words to Isaiah, Isaiah reports that God's "strong hand was upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people" (Isaiah 8:11).

We don't need to focus or "fear" the difficulties or trials we are facing. Peter and Isaiah are saying to us today to trust in the Lord.

***Prayer: O God of all People, the words you shared with your servant Isaiah have some much meaning for us today. Thank you that your hand is upon us. Amen.***

## **Week 2 : Day 4 – Peter – A Witness**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 3:15-17

*"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."*

Peter in our reading is offering us some direction in dealing with persecution or trials or difficulty.

**Focus on Christ rather than your fears.** It is vital that we get our priorities straight. Just as God said to Isaiah we are not to fear what others fear, but to fear God. Look at the full context of the Isaiah passage: "The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, and he will be a sanctuary...." (Isaiah 8:14-15) Peter echoes Isaiah 8:15. "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord."

**Focus on your faith.** Sometimes we find ourselves terrified to witness to our friends, that we do have faith in the midst of our trials. It is good for us to remember that we serve Jesus and the hope we have in him. In times of hardship, the Holy Spirit will help us to overcome our fears so we are willing to witness to who God is and what he gives us.

**Keep a clear conscience.** When we're under pressure and our life is on the line, we are tempted to justify any action with the argument that the ends justify the means.

***Prayer: God, the shepherd, you attend to my wounds and offer me shelter and nourishment when I am struggling. It is in your arms that I am shielded and safe. Amen***

## **Week 2 - Day 5 – Peter – Triumph in Trials**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 3:17-18

*"It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."*

As Peter gives us the example of Jesus' righteousness as a model for our own, we learn some important lessons about the redemptive power of Jesus suffering for us.

Sometimes we may feel like we need to be forgiven all over again. But Christ's atonement has been made once for all, with no need to ever be repeated again. Embracing the means of Grace are a powerful way for us to acknowledge the presence of Christ with us in our difficult moments.

John the Apostle writes: "... *Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*" (1 John 2:1-2)

Jesus has overcome so that we can live freely, free of sin, shame, guilt and pain. We need to have a faith that endures because of who Christ is!

Are you facing difficulty in your life now? Will you go through them knowing that Jesus Christ the overcomer goes with you!

***Prayer: Holy Spirit of God. Will you be my encourager today, helping me to let go of resentment, fear, anger and worry and embrace gratitude for the sake of my life and for the Kingdom of God. Amen***

## **Week 2 : Day 6 – Peter – Christ’s Presence in Trials**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 3:21-22

*"It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand -- with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him."*

Friends, Peter is reminding us once again that Jesus Lord! He lowered himself, he humbled himself, even to death as a criminal on the cross. But God has raised him from the dead!

*"God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)*

We serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today. He is with us in our difficulties, trials and tribulations .....  
Hallelujah!

Peter is calling us to Serve our risen Saviour faithfully, whether we are suffering or not. Emulate his humility and love to all people in our communities. Imitate his righteousness as you live in the world. Serve Christ with a clear conscience and have a faith that is enduring!

***Prayer: Jesus Christ you suffered on a cross so that we can be free! Meet us in our suffering and remind us that our identity is found in you! Amen***

# **Peter - Faith in Trials**

## **Group Notes**

### Welcome:

Share a moment from this week where you have had to endure trials.

### Worship:

It Is Well - Kristene DiMarco | You Make Me Brave - YouTube

### Prayer:

Father, as we pray, we acknowledge the Righteous One, Jesus, taking our place -- willingly, lovingly, at great personal cost. We have no real way to comprehend this kind of love. All we can do is to say "thank you" and try to live life motivated by that same quality of self-giving love. We fall so short. Thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you for your patience with us. Thank you for your encouraging words when we lag behind you. Thank you so much! Amen.

Word: 1 Peter 3: 8- 32

### Questions:

1. Which of the qualities Peter mentions in 3:8-9 are most evident in your life? Which are most needed?
2. Why is it so hard for us to be a witness when we're facing difficulties? Why is it easy in tough places to be the wrong kind of witness? Which one of Peter's four instructions do you find most needed in your particular situation?
3. Meditate for a few minutes on this verse: "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." Now personalize it to imagine (1) your sins, (2) your unrighteousness, and (3) your reconciliation with God. Which of these three aspects of the verse has God impressed most strongly on you today? Select one of the three and share it.

Work: Spend this week practicing the means of Grace as you face difficulty.