

Standing Firm: study of 1 Peter
“How to Live Confidently in Uncertain Times”
1 Peter 1:1-12
October 1, 2017 / Pastor Shawn

Historical Background:

4 Action Steps to Live Confidently

1. Be Honest with your situation .

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. 1 Peter 1:1-2

a) Why am I scattered ?

b) Am I living like an exile ?

c) Am I God's elect ?

2. Praise God for your salvation

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are being shielded by God's power until the coming salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

3. Embrace suffering as a Showcase for Jesus.

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:6-9

4. Remember the historical Reality of our Salvation.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

1 Peter 1:10-12

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why did this stand out to you?
2. When have you experienced suffering or persecution for being a Follower of Jesus Christ? Be prepared to share with your group.
3. What were the “4 Action Steps” Pastor Shawn outlined based on 1 Peter 1:1-12? How may those “Actions” help you live confidently during times of chaos, uncertainty or persecution? Be specific.
4. Peter describes our salvation in 1 Peter 1:3-9. What items would you list under “already available” to a Christian? What would you list under “not yet, but glad it’s coming”? How do the ones on the “not yet” support the “already” list? Are some on both lists? Why? What is it about your salvation that causes you to “praise God”?
5. According to verse 7, what is the purpose of trials? How can suffering increase your appreciation for your salvation?
6. How does this “salvation” become ours (vv 8-12)?