

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 2:1-10

February 23, 2025

Spend time this week in prayer for all those impacted by the fires in the Los Angeles area. Glide residents know from personal experience how devastating these fires are.

Monday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 2

Prayer Focus – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord. Put 1 Peter 5:7 into purposeful practice.

Tuesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 2; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Consider this – 1 Peter 2: 1-3

“Therefore.” As Pastor Ron quipped last week, “what is the ‘therefore’ there for?” Go back to chapter 1 and reread verse 23. In your mind, revise this using the word “Since” at the beginning of 1:23, and then finish the sentence with 2:1 (taking out the “therefore”). So, combining 1:23 and 2:1 with those changes we have– “Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God, rid yourself of all malice and all conceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” For Peter, it is a logical course of action that once you come to faith in Christ you are a new creation. How are you doing in obeying what Peter has been saying? He gives us two things to do. First in chapter 1 he tells us we must love. In chapter 2 he says to rid ourselves all of the wickedness that he lists. Ask the Lord to reveal areas where you need to do more work.

Prayer Focus – Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday (refer to your prayer list if you keep one on Sundays). Lift up the fellowship at NUBF. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

Wednesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 2

Consider this – 1 Peter 2: 1-5

Read verse 2 in different versions. One might say, “long for pure spiritual milk.” Another might say, “desire the pure milk of the word.” Which do you prefer? Which do you think is clearer? These versions will have a reference to “newborn babies.” Why is Peter telling us that we should desire the Word of God like a newborn desires milk? Picture how a newborn acts when it’s hungry. The NKJV study Bible notes that this instruction is for us to “not only to learn more, but to become more mature in the faith.” Make sure that your study, prayer, and worship is focused on these two elements—learning, and maturing.

Prayer Focus – Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

Thursday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 2; John 17.

Consider this – 1 Peter 2: 6-8

Reread chapter 1 verse 1. To whom is Peter writing? Next look at chapter 2 verse 5—what do all believers have in common? How does this compliment Jesus' prayer in John 17? Jesus prayed that his followers would "be as one ... brought to complete unity" and Peter emphasizes that here. Do you think this has happened? If not, what do you think is behind the splitting and disunity of Jesus' followers? Ask the Lord how you can be a unifying force in NUBF and your local Christian community.

Prayer Focus – Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Pray for our missionary partners.

Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

Friday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 2

Consider this – 1 Peter 2: 9-10

Peter says in verse 4 that we are "chosen by God and precious to him." In verse 9 Peter says that we "are God's special possession" (NIV). Meditate on these words this week and next. Maybe make them part of your daily devotions. Do you feel like you are precious and special, chosen by God? Use these verses to teach yourself that this is how the Lord sees you, whether you feel that way or see yourself that way. Spend time in thankful prayer reinforcing these facts.

Peter says that all those who are believers are, "a people ... the people of God." N.T. Wright asks, "What practical effect can this reality of a multinational and multiethnic people of God have on our local churches?" How has God expanded the definition of who His people are since the beginning of Acts?

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Pray that while Christ's coming is still in the future, God will use you to expand His kingdom. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

Saturday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 2

Consider this – 1 Peter 2

Go back to the start of this chapter. We should be desiring the Word of God. But, like small children we can fill ourselves with junk food and have no appetite for what we should be consuming. This junk food can be anything in our society today—leisure diversions, various media sources, politics, and the list of evil things that Peter lists. Wiersbe says, "If we stop feeding on the Word, we stop growing, and we stop enjoying (tasting) the grace that we find in the Lord. When Christians are growing in the Word, they are peacemakers, not troublemakers, and they promote the unity of the church."

Addendum: This DD was originally distributed a couple of weeks ago. I wanted to get this aligned with Pastor Ron's preaching so I am recycling it with this addition.

Peter gives a list in chapter 2:1 (not exhaustive) of things to avoid doing, saying, thinking, etc. Why is this so difficult to follow? In *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis recounts that St. Francis called, "his body, 'Brother Ass.'" Lewis says, "Ass is exquisitely right, because no one in his senses can either revere or hate a donkey. It is a useful, sturdy, lazy, obstinate, patient, loveable and infuriating beast; deserving now the stick and now the carrot; both pathetically and absurdly beautiful. So, the body." Read and meditate on Romans 7.

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the Pastors of NUBF and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.