

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 4

May 18, 2025

Monday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 4

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.

Peter writes a lot about suffering. This prayer is from the Henri Nouwen society. Make it your prayer for the week–

“Lord Jesus, I come to you to enter into the mystery of your way–the way of discipleship, the way that leads from the cross to new life. It is not an easy way, but it is a way of peace and joy. Help me to be here with a heart open to suffering, a mind open to understanding, and a will ready to follow. There are many struggles and I will always have many struggles, but with you, O Lord, I am living in the Light. With you, O Lord, I am moving more and more toward life. With you, O Lord, I know I am safe. Let me celebrate my life in a spirit of gratitude. Grateful that I am here and grateful that you are my God.”

Tuesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 4

Consider this – 1 Peter 4:1; 1:6, 13, 22, 2:1, 11, 13, 21, 3:8, 14, 18. Romans 6.

It’s probably safe to say that nobody wants to endure suffering–either physical or spiritual. But what does Peter say about it in verse 1? What should our thinking, or “attitude” (NIV) be about suffering? Is it difficult to endure suffering even though you are obeying God? Who does Peter point to as our example in this scenario?

In this letter, Peter spends a lot of time writing about getting your mind right, and preparing your life for hardships that may come. Read the verses listed above to see how Peter is focused on this idea.

After this intro phrase, Peter says that, “whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.” What do you make of this statement? Is Peter an advocate of suffering? I don’t think so. Suffering by itself does not necessarily produce anything good. Think of Pharaoh. While there is not room enough here to discuss all of the different interpretations of this statement, I do like what Wiersbe says. “We gradually get used to sin ... a believer living in sin is a terrible weapon in the hands of Satan ... Suffering plus Christ in our lives can help us have victory over sin ... as we yield ourselves to God ... we can overcome the old life and manifest the new life.” Do you battle your sinful nature or are you “getting used to it”? Remember why and for whom you are battling!

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 4

Consider this – 1 Peter 4:2-3

Living for Christ will have a cost. Peter writes about the cost of changing your life choices. Following his train of thought, why do people choose to follow the will of God? As a result of this choice, in verse three Peter lists some of the things that people living this way will give up. What does Peter mention? What have you given up because of your decision to follow Christ?

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 4

Consider this – 1 Peter 4:4

Here Peter shows that the choice of following God has consequences that go beyond simply a change in personal choices. What does Peter say will happen to believers who make the choices to change how they live their lives? Have you experienced the things that Peter mentions? If so, how have you responded?

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 4

Consider this – 1 Peter 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2.

Those who heap abuse on believers will have consequences for their choices. What does Peter say about the consequences of their actions toward believers? How should we think about this? Wiersbe reminds us that “we must be patient with the lost.” Why? One reason is that they are blind to the truth of scripture. Another is that they are spiritually dead (as we were before we came to Christ). So don’t focus on what they say about you, focus on what Peter says in chapter 3–be ready to give them a testimony. Remember that they might judge us, but, “one day God will judge them. Instead of arguing with them, we should pray for them” (Wiersbe).

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 4

Consider this – 1 Peter 4:5-6

One interesting thing about verse 6 is that the word “now” is in the NIV but not in the NKJV or the ESV. The NIV editors put this word in verse 6 to clarify that Peter is not talking about preaching to the dead so as to give them a second chance at salvation. To understand verse 6, one needs to read it together with verse 5. Peter’s point here, many commentators say, is that people who were dead in sin responded to the gospel and died in faith (some were martyred). But what happens to them? They are physically dead, but they are vindicated before God in judgement. Let this be your hope as well.

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.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.