

# A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 4

May 25, 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: 7-11

**Consider this** – 1 Peter 4:7

What does Peter say to introduce this section? Peter wrote in verses 5 and 6 about judgement. Now he writes about the “end of all things” being “at hand,” or “near.” Here we are some 2K years in the future. Was Peter wrong about his assessment about the future? What do you make of this? How would you explain this to someone who questions the Bible because of this?

**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: 7-11

**Consider this** – 1 Peter 4:7

Since Peter says that the “end of things is at hand,” we should conduct ourselves in two ways.

In the ESV he says we should be “self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.”

The NKJV puts it this way– “be serious and watchful in your prayers.”

Review this section in various versions. Which strikes you as the best and easiest to understand? Use this to inform your prayers this week.

**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: 7-11

**Consider this** – 1 Peter 4:8-10; John 13:34; 1 John 4:16; Proverbs 10:12; 1 Corinthians 13:13.

In this section Peter focuses on others. Look at the two words that begin verse 8. How do these words give this section prominence? Why do you think Peter puts love at the forefront of all of the things he is encouraging his readers to be and do? In your life as a follower of Christ, how do you rank the importance of love? If someone were to ask someone you know about you, “how do you know that he/she is a Christian?” What do you think would be the reply?

**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: 7-11

**Consider this** – 1 Peter 4:8-10

Verses 9-11a offers more instruction on how to live a Christian life. Peter mentions hospitality (without grumbling!); he tells us to faithfully use the gifts we have from God in service—God has shown us grace, we must reflect that grace in our lives; when we speak, we should do so reflecting God’s word, when we serve, we should do so as Christ modeled service for us.

There is a lot that Peter says in a very few verses. Spend time reflecting on these things ask the Lord to help you to live a life that reflects Peter’s words.

**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: 7-11

**Consider this** – 1 Peter 4:8-10

Why should we do all of this? What is the goal? It surely is not so that people think of us as “spiritual”! Read verse 11b and consider—is your life glorifying God in “everything”?

In his commentary about this section, Scot McKnight says, “we [should be] dominated by love...a loving community is able to tolerate more differences, forgive more wrongs, and grow into more effective prayers. It will inevitably be a community noted by its hospitality and warmth.” Would you say that this describes NUBF? What can you do to help the NUBF community fulfil what Peter is saying about the believer and the community of believers?

**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](mailto:stvc13@gmail.com).