

FOLLOWING THE SHEPHERD

BRINGING HOPE & ASSURANCE INTO EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES



Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen .

(Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV)

PHASE ONE: We need to ourselves understand the importance of hope in our walk with God based on the four "hope" verses in 1 Peter.

I. Live as people who have been born again to a living hope.

(1 Peter 1:3 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

II. Set our hope fully on the grace to come.

- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

With disciplined thinking and a serious attitude separated from outside influences, we set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to us.

To be sober-minded ... means to not be intoxicated ... figuratively ... by any type of influence that would lead us away from sound judgment ... such as illusions or pretensions ... or dreamy, fanciful ideas not grounded in reality ...

- ✓ **SUBMIT TO THE SHEPHERD.**
- ✓ **DIE TO SIN.**
- ✓ **LIVE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
- ✓ **SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD.**

III. Make sure that our faith and hope are in God.

- (1 Peter 1:19–21 ESV) But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

IV. Live in such a way that the people around us are compelled to ask us about our hope.

- (1 Peter 3:15a NIV) But in your hearts revere 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.

The course of our life should be directed by hope. Hope will determine our attitude and actions in the workplace ... and in the home ... Hope will set the course for us in our attitude and actions toward the body of Christ ... and

hope will keep our tongue from evil ...

Hope that sets the course of our lives becomes obvious to the people around us and they may ask us about our hope.

PHASE TWO: We need to understand the inseparable relationship between hope and suffering.

We need to understand that when we set our hope fully on the grace to come that suffering will follow as a result of our continued obedience to living by hope and not changing direction.

If this is true ... if there is an inseparable relationship between hope and suffering ... and if 1 Peter is a letter of hope ... **then 1 Peter should also be a letter about suffering.**

And it is. The word suffer ... is found seventeen times in 1 Peter in various forms ... suffering ... suffered ... etc.

- (1 Peter 2:19–21 ESV) For this is a gracious thing [Greek "charis" ... a thing of grace], when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while **suffering** unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and **suffer** for it you endure, this is a gracious [grace] thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also **suffered** for you, leaving

you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

- (Romans 5:1–5 ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 **Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,** 4 and endurance produces character, and character **produces hope,** 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- (1 Peter 5:10 ESV) And after you have **suffered** a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal **glory** in

Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

If we are serious about bringing hope into our world, then we must be prepared to suffer for doing good.

PHASE THREE: We need to die to sin and live to righteousness.

- (1 Peter 2:24–25 ESV) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, **that we might die to sin and live to righteousness**. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This is why Christ did what he did.

- I. Christ died for our sins **so that we would die to sin**.
- II. Christ died for our sins **so that we would live to righteousness**.
- III. His wounds have thoroughly and completely healed us as he has set our sins away from us.

We find this very powerful idea of the removal of our sins in Psalm 103 ...

- (Psalm 103:10–13 ESV) He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

So how sad it is when we don't determine in our hearts to die to sin and live to righteousness ... how tragic it is when a person does not live according to the purpose for which they were saved ... that person has nothing to offer the world around ... just someone else with religious slogans that they apparently don't even believe themselves ...

Our sin is sometimes that we are so distant from the Shepherd that we don't see our sins at all ... the sins we need to die to ... or we are so weak in our faith that we don't believe how thoroughly and completely God has dealt with our sins ... or we do not value the path of righteousness for his name's sake ...

PHASE FOUR: We need to follow the Shepherd and not return to our the old ways as straying sheep.

We need allow the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls to be the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls in all of the various realms in our world—in the workplace ... and in the home ...

How do we bring hope into our world? We live as people of hope in our world!

We need to live by hope as people of hope by following the Shepherd's instructions as to how to live under the authority of the government, in the workplace and in our homes.

I. Follow the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls in the workplace ...

- (1 Peter 2:18–23 ESV) Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

II. Follow the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls in the home ...

- (1 Peter 3:1–7 ESV) Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and

quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

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- (Deuteronomy 32:4 ESV) The **Rock**, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
 - (2 Samuel 22:47 ESV) The LORD lives, and blessed be my **rock**, and exalted be my God, the **rock** of my salvation.
 - (Psalm 18:2 ESV) The LORD is my **rock** and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my **rock**, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
 - (Psalm 62:7 ESV) On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty **rock**, my refuge is God.
 - (Psalm 95:1 ESV) Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the **rock**

of our salvation!

Dearest Lord Jesus, Shepherd and Overseer of my soul,

Help me to live on the Rock of my salvation ... and according to the hope by which you have given me new life ... that I would set my hope fully on you ... that my hope will always be in you ... and that this testimony of hope that doesn't disappoint will draw those around me to you ...

And please give me the grace and the strength to follow in your steps and embrace suffering in your name and to the glory of your name ...

Help me to share fellowship with you as I die to sin and live to righteousness ...

Help me to never again stray as the foolish sheep that I can be ... but to stay close to you in all my ways ...

And may I be pleasing to you as light and hope in this world of darkness and desperation ... Amen.

Sing – I Love You, Lord

I Love You Lord, And I lift my voice, To worship You, O
my soul rejoice, Take joy my King, In what You hear,
May it be a sweet sweet sound, In Your ear.

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- (Ezekiel 34:15 ESV) I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.
 - (Psalm 23:1 NLT) The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.
 - (John 10:14 ESV) I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.
 - (Revelation 7:17 ESV) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

1 PETER MESSAGE 16 - The Loving Commands of the Shepherd of Our Souls, Part 2 - Living to Righteousness -

1 Peter 2:18-3:7 - ffc - dave scott - 040520 - STUDY SHEETS

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