

1 PETER: GENUINE FAITH TESTED BY FIRE

Sunday, June 8, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 1 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

THEME: **TAKE HEART!** Because of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, those who persevere in Him can have true hope amidst their own suffering and hardships knowing that God's saving promises will be delivered both now and forever.
(See 1 PETER 2:21-25 and 1:6-8)

THE WRITER: **THE APOSTLE PETER**

Identity and Background

- Originally named **Simon** (Greek: *Simeon*), Later called **Peter** (Greek: *Petros*, meaning "rock") by Jesus (John 1:42). Also called **Cephas** (Aramaic for "rock")—used by Paul (Galatians 2:9).
- Son of **Jonah** (or John)—a fisherman by trade (Matthew 16:17; Luke 5:1–11).
- From **Bethsaida**, later lived in **Capernaum** (John 1:44; Mark 1:29).
- Had a **brother named Andrew**, who introduced him to Jesus (John 1:40–42).
- Apparently married (Mark 1:30; 1 Corinthians 9:5).

Relationship with Jesus

- One of the **first disciples** called by Jesus (Luke 5:10–11).
- Became part of Jesus' inner circle with James and John (Mark 5:37; Matt 17:1).
- **Confessed Jesus as the Christ**: "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Matt 16:16).
- **Walked on water** briefly, but sank when he doubted (Matt 14:28–31).
- Often **spoke impulsively** and misunderstood (Matthew 17:4; John 13:6–9).
- **Opposed Jesus' prediction** of His suffering; was rebuked: "*Get behind me, Satan!*" (Matt 16:22–23).
- **Denied Jesus three times**, as Jesus predicted (Luke 22:54–62).
- **Restored by Jesus** after the resurrection: "*Do you love me? Feed my sheep*" 3x (John 21:15–19).
- Jesus foretells of **Peter's own suffering** to come. (John 21:18)

Role in the Early Church (approximately 30 years of ministry)

- **Preached at Pentecost**, resulting in 3,000 conversions (Acts 2).
- **Performed miracles**: healing the lame (Acts 3), raising Tabitha (Acts 9) etc.
- **Spoke boldly before the Sanhedrin** (Acts 4–5).
- **Used to open the gospel to Gentiles**, beginning with Cornelius (Acts 10–11).
- Played a key role at the **Jerusalem Council**, affirming salvation by grace, not law (Acts 15).
- Was **arrested, beaten, imprisoned, and miraculously freed** (Acts 12).
- Involved with various missionary journeys similar to the Apostle Paul

Remembered and Revered

- Would eventually write two letters of the NT: **1 PETER and 2 PETER**
- Heavily influenced **Mark's Gospel**
- **Martyred in Rome** -- crucified upside down (Origen and Eusebius)
- Regarded as 'a pillar' of the early church (Galatians 2:9)
- Remembered as going from impulsive and fearful --> bold and faithful.

FIRST PETER HAS POWERFUL LIFE LESSONS:

LIFE Lesson 1 – Chosen Exiles: Our Identity in Christ 1 Peter 1:1–12

- Elect exiles of the Dispersion (1:1–2)
- New birth into a living hope (1:3–5)
- Rejoicing in trials (1:6–7)
- The greatness of God’s salvation (1:10–12)

Application: ***How should our eternal identity shape our earthly mindset?***

LIFE Lesson 2 – Be Holy: Conduct and Character of God’s People 1 Peter 1:13–2:12

- Be holy in all conduct (1:13–16)
- Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ (1:18–21)
- Love one another earnestly (1:22–25)
- Long for pure spiritual milk (2:1–3)
- You are a chosen race and royal priesthood (2:4–12)

Application: ***What does it mean to live a holy life in a hostile world?***

LIFE Lesson 3 – Submission for the Lord’s Sake 1 Peter 2:13–3:7

- Submission to human authorities (2:13–17)
- Enduring unjust suffering (2:18–25)
- Christ as the suffering servant (2:21–24)
- Godly conduct in marriage (3:1–7)

Application: ***How does submission to authority display Christ’s character?***

LIFE Lesson 4 – Suffering with Christ: A Life of Blessing 1 Peter 3:8–4:11

- Unity, blessing, and suffering for righteousness (3:8–17)
- Christ’s suffering and victory (3:18–22)
- Living for God’s will, not human passions (4:1–6)
- Use gifts to serve others (4:7–11)

Application: ***How can we see suffering as a privilege, not a punishment?***

LIFE Lesson 5 – Fiery Trials and Future Glory 1 Peter 4:12–19

- Do not be surprised by fiery trials (4:12–13)
- Rejoice in sharing Christ’s sufferings (4:13–14)
- Judgment begins with the household of God (4:17)

Application: ***What does it mean to trust God while suffering for His name?***

LIFE Lesson 6 – Humble Shepherds and Firm Faith 1 Peter 5:1–14

- Shepherd the flock willingly and eagerly (5:1–4)
- Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand (5:5–7)
- Be watchful against the devil (5:8–9)
- The God of all grace will restore and establish you (5:10–11)

Application: ***How does humility, watchfulness, and hope help us stand firm?***

1st PETER CHAPTER 1

1 *PETER*, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of **the Dispersion** in **Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia**, **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 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, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. **12** It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 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. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." **17** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** 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.

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, **23** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for

"All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

25 *but the word of the Lord remains forever."*

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- **BE ENCOURAGED by the LOVING, PASTORAL TONE.**
- **BE ENCOURAGED by the EXALTED CHRIST.**
- **BE ENCOURAGED by the GOOD NEWS of GOD'S GRACE.**