



HOPE THAT HOLDS

A STUDY IN 1 PETER

STUDY GUIDE

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 - MARCH 29, 2026

1 PETER 1:1-12 | FEB 8, 2026

Peter opens his letter by reminding suffering believers who they are and what God has done for them in Christ. They are chosen exiles and have a sure hope of salvation secured by Christ. Their hope is what will hold them together through every trial they face in life.

Read Verses 1-5, John 17:14-16, Matthew 6:19-21

How does Peter's description of believers as "elect exiles" shape the way we understand our place in the world?

What does it mean that our inheritance is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading"? Why does that matter in seasons of hardship?

Read verses 6-12, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Romans 8:18

Peter connects joy and grief in verses 6-7. How can those coexist in the Christian life?

According to James 1:2-5, Why is faith refined through trials, and how does God use suffering for our good?

What stands out to you about the role of the prophets and angels in God's plan of salvation?

How does remembering God's saving work in the past strengthen our hope for the future?

In what ways do you struggle to live with an eternal perspective?

How can you intentionally remind yourself of the living hope you have in Christ when circumstances tempt you to discouragement this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Our identity in Christ precedes our obedience.
- Christian hope is living, secure, and future oriented.
- Suffering refines faith and magnifies God's glory.

PRAYER PROMPT

Pray that you would grow in a deeper assurance of your identity in Christ and a confident hope anchored in God's promises. Ask the Lord to help you see trials through the lens of eternity. Pray for joy that is rooted not in circumstances but in the finished work of Christ and the guaranteed inheritance that awaits God's people.

NOTES

1 PETER 1:13-25 | FEB 15, 2026

This passage invites you to reflect personally on what it means to follow Christ faithfully in a world that resists Him.

We just looked at the hope of salvation, Peter now calls believers to a life of holiness. Because God is holy and has redeemed us at great cost, Christians are to live distinctively in a world that does not share their values. Holiness is not moralism but grateful obedience flowing from the salvation we have already received.

Read Verses 13-17, Colossians 3:1-4, Hebrews 12:5-11

What does it look like to "set your hope fully on the grace" that is coming?

How does understanding God as Father shape both our comfort and our reverent fear?

Read Verses 18-22, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, John 13:34-35

Why does Peter emphasize the cost of our redemption? How should this shape daily obedience?

What is the connection between holiness and love for other believers?

Read Verses 23-25

How does the Word of God sustain holy living?

Where do you feel the tension between old desires and new obedience?

How can you encourage one another toward holiness without legalism?

What specific habit, attitude, or pattern of thinking needs to change in light of your call to live a holy life shaped by the hope of the gospel?

Key Takeaways

- Our hope stirs up a desire for holiness.
- Our redemption will motivate us to obedience.
- God's Word sustains transformed lives. We must rely daily on His guidance and direction in the Word that he gave to us.

Prayer Prompt

Pray that the hope of Christ would shape the way you think, desire, and live. Ask the Lord to help you pursue holiness out of gratitude for Christ's redemption rather than fear or obligation. Pray for strength to resist former patterns of sin and for a sincere love for other believers that flows from obedience to God's enduring Word.

Notes

1 PETER 2:1-12 | FEB 22, 2026

Most people think about spiritual growth just in behavior modification, personal habits, and ways of thinking. In this passage, Peter widens the lens. He reminds you that coming to Christ also means being built together with others into something God is building for His glory. Faith is personal, but it is never meant to be isolated. As you study this text, reflect on how your life is being shaped not only by Christ Himself, but also by your connection to His people and your calling to visibly represent Him in the world.

Read Verses 1-7, Ephesians 4:22-24, Acts 4:11

Why does spiritual growth require both putting away sin and longing for God's Word?

What does it mean that Jesus is both rejected by men and chosen by God?

How does Peter describe the church's identity in verses 9-10, and why does that matter?

According to Matthew 5:14-16, what does it look like to proclaim God's excellencies in everyday life?

Read Verses 11-12, Titus 2:7-8

How does our conduct among unbelievers serve as a witness?

Where do you see the temptation to blend in rather than live distinctly?

How can you live more intentionally as a spiritual family?

In what ways can you be more intentional with serving and participating in the life of the body of Christ?

Key Takeaways

- Spiritual growth is personal but never isolated.
- God is forming His people together with Christ as the cornerstone.
- Identity in Christ fuels holy living and faithful witness. ance and direction in the Word that he gave to us.

Prayer Prompt

Pray that God would shape your faith not only through personal growth, but through deeper connection to His people. Ask for humility and grace to be formed together with others as part of what He is building. Pray for a growing hunger for God's Word, a willingness to put away patterns that hinder spiritual maturity, and a desire for your everyday life to clearly display God's excellencies to those around you.

Notes

1 PETER 2:13-3:7 | MARCH 1, 2026

Scripture teaches that earthly authority is established by God and meant for our good. Peter calls believers to live as submissive, respectful citizens not because all authorities are righteous, but because God is sovereign. At the same time, biblical submission is always in context. Obedience to human authority always exists below a higher allegiance to God Himself. As you study these verses, consider how faithful obedience flows from trust in God, and how allegiance to Christ shapes both when you submit and when obedience to God requires you to resist sin, even if it costs you everything.

Read Verses 13-25, Romans 13:1-4

Why does Peter command submission to governing authorities, and how does this reflect trust in God's sovereignty rather than approval of every ruler?

Scripture affirms limits to human authority. How do passages like Acts 5:29 help clarify when obedience to God must take precedence?

What does Christ's response to unjust suffering teach you about faithfulness without retaliation or fear?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

How does Peter connect a wife's conduct to gospel witness, especially in situations where her husband does not share her faith?

How does Peter's reference to Sarah help clarify the meaning of submission as trust in God rather than fear of man?

Why does Peter address both authority and responsibility within the home, and how does this reflect God's design for order and care?

Peter commands husbands to live with their wives "in an understanding way." What does this require in terms of leadership, care, and responsibility?

Key Takeaways

- God establishes earthly authority, but He alone holds ultimate authority.
- Faithfulness may involve suffering when obedience to God conflicts with human demands.
- The institution of marriage is God's good design and must operate within that design.

Prayer Prompt

Pray for discernment to honor authority while remaining fully obedient to God. Ask the Lord for wisdom to recognize when submission reflects faithfulness and when obedience to Christ requires resistance to sin. Pray for courage to follow Christ without fear and humility to submit where God calls you to submit.

Notes

1 PETER 3:8-22 | MARCH 8, 2026

Peter broadens the focus from specific roles and relationships to the posture of the whole Christian life. Following Christ means living with a distinct kind of hope, one that doesn't disappear when opposition or suffering comes. In this passage, we will look at how to live faithfully in a world that may misunderstand, oppose, or even malign your faith. Christian hope is not loud or defensive, it is steady, reasoned, and grounded in the victory of Christ.

Read verses 8-15, Colossians 3:12-14

What qualities does Peter say should characterize believers in their relationships with one another, and why are these especially important in times of pressure?

Why does Peter describe suffering for righteousness as a blessing rather than a failure?

What does it mean to honor Christ as Lord in your heart, especially when facing fear or opposition?

How does being prepared to give a reason for your hope differ from being argumentative or defensive about your faith?

What sort of living would cause someone to ask about the hope that is in you?

Read verses 16-22, Acts 24:16

Why does Peter emphasize a good conscience, and how does integrity strengthen Christian witness?

How does Christ's suffering and resurrection provide assurance that faithfulness is never wasted?

What is the connection between the account of Noah and the reality of being united with Christ in baptism? How does our union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection help us when we suffer for righteousness' sake?

Key Takeaways

- Christian hope remains steady in the face of suffering.
- Faithful witness flows from reverence for Christ, not fear of opposition.
- Christ's victory assures believers that suffering is never the final word.

Prayer Prompt

Pray for confidence in Christ that steadies your heart when fear or opposition arises. Ask God to help you honor Christ as Lord in every circumstance and to be prepared to speak about your hope with clarity, gentleness, and conviction. Pray for a clear conscience and faithful obedience, trusting that Christ's resurrection and reign secure the outcome of your faith.

Notes

1 PETER 4:1-11 | MARCH 15, 2026

The reality of Christ's suffering on our behalf really does change the way that we see our lives today. Because Christ suffered in the flesh and triumphed over sin, believers are no longer bound to live according to former desires. As you study these verses, consider how Christ's work reshapes both how you resist sin and how you serve others.

Read verses 1-4, Ephesians 4:17-24

How does Peter connect Christ's suffering with freedom from sin and a new way of living?

Why does Peter emphasize leaving behind former patterns of life, and what makes that difficult?

Read verses 5-11

What does Peter mean when he says "the end of all things is at hand," and how should that shape daily priorities?

What does it practically mean to be self-controlled and sober-minded?

Why does Peter place such strong emphasis on love within the Christian community?

How does practicing hospitality without grumbling reflect gospel-shaped maturity?

What responsibility comes with the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to you?

How does serving others bring glory to God rather than attention to ourselves?

What is one practical way you can use your time, gifts, or resources this week to serve others for God's glory?

Key Takeaways

- Christ's suffering frees believers to live for God's will.

- Love and service are essential marks of Christian maturity.
- God is glorified when His people steward their gifts faithfully.

Prayer Prompt

Pray for urgency to live for God's will rather than former desires. Ask the Lord for clarity in how you use your time, gifts, and energy for His purposes. Pray for genuine love toward others, a willingness to serve without complaint, and a desire for God to be glorified in every area of your life through Jesus Christ.

Notes

1 PETER 4:12-19 | MARCH 22, 2026

Peter addresses suffering as an expected part of faithful Christian living, not as an exception. Trials are not signs of God's absence but often the means He sanctifies the believer. This passage calls you to consider not only the reality of suffering, but the purpose of it.

Read verses 12-14, John 15:18-20

Why does Peter warn believers not to be surprised by trials, and how does this reshape expectations for the Christian life?

What does it mean to share in Christ's sufferings, and how does this prepare believers for future glory?

Read verses 15-19, Psalm 37:3-5

How does Peter distinguish between suffering for Christ and suffering for wrongdoing, and why is that distinction important?

Why does Peter describe judgment as beginning with the household of God, and how should that shape humility and repentance?

What does it look like to entrust your soul to a faithful Creator while continuing to do good?

How does remembering God's faithfulness help sustain endurance during prolonged hardship?

Where do you find it most challenging to remain faithful when obedience involves suffering? In what ways is Chris's church suffering or facing persecution today?

How can suffering expose misplaced hopes or deepen reliance on Christ?

In what practical ways can believers support one another when facing suffering for righteousness?

Key Takeaways

- Suffering for Christ is a normal part of the Christian life.
- God refines and strengthens His people through trials.
- Faithfulness means trusting God and continuing to do good.

Prayer Prompt

Pray for steadfast faith when following Christ involves suffering or loss. Ask God to guard your heart from bitterness or fear and to help you trust His purposes. Pray for humility, perseverance, and the strength to continue doing good while entrusting your life fully to God as your Lord.

Notes

1 PETER 5 | MARCH 29, 2026

Peter concludes his letter by calling believers to humility and confidence in God's sustaining grace. Considering suffering and opposition, Christians are reminded that faithfulness doesn't come from self-reliance but from dependence on God. This chapter points believers toward steadfast faith, trust in God's care, and assurance that the Lord Himself will restore and strengthen His people.

Read verses 1-9, John 10:11-15

What responsibilities does Peter describe for church leaders, and how do these reflect Christ's example of shepherding His people?

Why does Peter connect humility toward others with humility before God?

What does it mean to cast your anxieties on God, and why is this an act of trust rather than passivity?

Why does Peter warn believers to remain sober-minded and watchful, and what does this reveal about spiritual opposition?

How does knowing that suffering is shared by believers throughout the world help foster endurance and perspective?

Read verses 10-14, Romans 6:3-4

What encouragement do you find in God's promise to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish His people?

How does humility protect believers from both pride in leadership and despair in suffering?

What practices help you remain spiritually alert and dependent on God's grace?

Key Takeaways

- God calls His people to humility and watchfulness.
- Spiritual opposition is real, but God's grace is greater.

- The Lord Himself will restore and establish those who stand firm in faith.

Prayer Prompt

Pray for humility before God and dependence on His sustaining grace. Ask the Lord to help you cast your anxieties on Him with confidence in His care. Pray for spiritual alertness, perseverance in faith, and trust that God will strengthen His people.

Notes