**1 Peter: Right Thinking, Right Response**

1 Peter 4:7b-11

**Context**

**1 Peter 4:7-11**—The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound thinking and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. **8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9**Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. **10**As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God—**11**whoever speaks, as one speaking the oracles of God; whoever serves, as one serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and might forever and ever. Amen.

If we are to be followers of Christ, we must count the cost. The cost of doing so is not insignificant. Jesus says that we are to deny ourselves and enthusiastically submit to His Lordship, even if it costs us our very lives.

**Luke 9:23**—And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

**Matthew 19:21**—Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt%25252019&version=NASB1995%23fen-NASB1995-23784j)]complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

**Luke 9:59-62**—And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” **60**But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” **61**Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” **62**But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**14:26-33**—“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. **27**Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. **28**For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? **29**Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, **30**saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ **31**Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **32**Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. **33**So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

Although Christ calls us to understand the cost, it actually is a gracious invitation. In reality, the cost of pursing and following Him is far less than the alternative.

**Matthew 11:29-30**—Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Discipleship is costly and eternally joyous, but the cost of rejection is infinitely greater and eternally horrific.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Psalm 9:17**—The wicked will return to Sheol, Even all the nations who forget God.

**Proverbs 13:15**—Good understanding produces favor, But the way of the treacherous is hard.

**Isaiah 33:14**—Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless. “Who among us can live with the consuming fire?

**Matthew 8:12**—but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Think of the blessings that are ours in Christ: Free from the burden of sin; biblical solutions to our problems; freedom to serve Christ; a place prepared for us; and eternal hope (just to name a few).

Not so with the unregenerate. None of those would be true and a horrific outcome for their rejection of the truth and lack of belief.

Christian discipleship really is a paradox: costly, but easy.

**Matthew 11:28**—“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest…”

**1 John 5:3**—For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

There is a direct outcome to what we think and how we live

**Romans 2:7**—to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; **8**but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and anger.

**Hebrews 10:35**—therefore, do not throw away that confidence of yours, which has a great reward.

**James 1:12**—Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

To be clear, living the Christian life absolutely requires the Spirit of God’s empowerment, working graciously through the Scriptures. We do not live the Christian life on our own. The Spirit of God enables us to live and walk according to the will of God.

**Ephesians 5:15-21**—Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16**making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17**So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20**always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; **21**and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

**Philippians 4:13**—I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

**Colossians 3:16-17**—Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17**Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The way we cultivate our walk and consistently do that which He calls us to do is to develop discipline in our daily lives.

**Luke 6:40**—A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

**2 Timothy 4:7-8**—But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; **8**for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Peter is helping us here consider how we are to live Godly lives.

**3 Aspects to our Duty/Privilege to Honor Christ**

1. **Because the End is near**

**7a** The end of all things is near…

1. **With Clear Directives**

**7b**…therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. **8**Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9**Be hospitable to one another without complaint. **10**As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11a**Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies.

1. Vertical: our relationship to God

**7b**…therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer

1. Knowing the mind of Christ

(Cf. **1 Corinthians 2:14-16)**

* 1. The better understanding of God and His ways, the better I am at living Godly

**Romans 12:1-2**—Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Ephesians 4:23**—and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

**Philippians 4:8**—Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

* 1. Be of sound judgment (sōphroneō)—be in right mind; be sober; be sober minded; to exercise self-control[[2]](#footnote-2)
  2. Do not be carried away with wrong views (of yourself or of circumstances)

**Romans 12:3**—For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith

* 1. It also has the idea of guarding the mind

**Proverbs 4:23**—Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

**Application:** is your mind set on spiritual priorities and righteous living?

**Joshua 1:8**—This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

**Matthew 6:33**—But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Colossians 3:2**—Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

* 1. The forces of opposition will constantly seek to distract and destroy

**1 John 2:15-17**—Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16**For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17**The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

* 1. **Point:** when we focus on the right thing and subject our minds to Christ and His Word, we have an eternal perspective

1. Sober spirit (nēphō)—be sober, watch; to be calm and collected in spirit[[3]](#footnote-3)
   1. Spiritually observant

**Matthew 24:42**—Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

**26:41**—Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1. For the purpose of prayer

Recognizing the seriousness of life and the imminence of the Lord’s return, we are to utilize the privilege of prayer. The Greek expression “watch unto prayer,” literally translated, is “be serious unto prayer,” indicating that it is solemn business and demands our full attention. We are not to become frivolous, selfish, or irresponsible in our praying, for prayer does make a difference.[[4]](#footnote-4)

* 1. Believers cannot pray properly if their minds are unstable due to worldly pursuits, ignorance of divine truth, or indifference to divine purposes.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**1 Corinthians 14:15**—What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

* 1. Our prayers are richer and deeper when we consider and commune with the living God
  2. The way we have a greater understanding of God comes through the word
     1. Therefore be saturated in the Word
     2. Meditate on Him and His truths
     3. Communing with Him according to His will

**Jude 20**—But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit

* 1. Our seriousness and soundness of mind here is connected with worship, “prayers”; the singular as well as the plural of this word often refer to the whole Christian worship.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Acts 2:42**—They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Horizontal: our relationship with people

**8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **9**Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

1. Above all—supreme importance

**1 Corinthians 13:13**—But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**Philippians 2:2**—make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

**Colossians 3:14**—Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

1. Fervent (ektenēs)—stretched out; metaphor—intent, earnestly, assiduously[[7]](#footnote-7)
   1. It has the idea of stretching to the limits
   2. i.e. horses running at full speed

**1 Peter 1:22**—Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

* 1. **Application:** In spite of the insure, insult, misunderstanding, criticism, and rude behavior, we love fervently

**Proverbs 10:12**—Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

**Matthew 5:44**—But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

**Mark 12:33**—and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

**Romans 12:14**—Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

(Cf. **1 John 4:11; Galatians 6:10, James 1:27**).

* 1. Not hard to understand, but very hard to apply

1. Love covers a multitude of sins
   1. Love (agapē)—a love of the will; involves action or a choice

**Romans 5:8**—But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**John 3:16**—For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

* 1. Axiomatic—meaning it is self-evident
  2. When I love someone genuinely, I will forgive and cover their sins
  3. Applies both in God’s love and forgiveness of our sins and our love for others and the forgiveness we extend
  4. The command, Christ’s example, and their witness necessitates it

1. Be hospitable to one another
   1. Literally—“to love strangers”; given to hospitality; lover of hospitality[[8]](#footnote-8)
   2. We easily love our circle of friends; not so much with outsiders or those in opposition

**Hebrews 13:2**—Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

* 1. Mosaic law required it of God’s people

(Cf. **Exodus 22:21; Deuteronomy 14:29**)

* 1. Jesus required it as well

(Cf. **Matthew 25:35-40; Luke 14:12-14**)

* 1. It includes an unselfish mindset and attitude

1. Without complaint (gongysmos)—murmuring, grudgingly, grumbling[[9]](#footnote-9)
   1. Sometimes referred to as “a secret debate”; or “a secret displeasure not openly avowed”[[10]](#footnote-10)

**Numbers 11:1-3**—Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the Lord; and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. **2**The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord and the fire died out. **3**So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the Lord burned among them.

**Jonah 4:1-3**—But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. **2**He prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was not this =what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. **3**Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.”

(Cf. John 6:41-43)

**Philippians 2:14**—Do all things without grumbling or disputing.

* 1. **Application:** Are you known far more for your complaining than for your joy/contentment?

**John 13:35**—By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

1. Outcome: Serve one another

**10**As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God—**11**whoever speaks, as one speaking the oracles of God; whoever serves, as one serving by the strength which God supplies;

1. Every believer has received a spiritual gift
   1. This is a divine enablement for ministry to the body[[11]](#footnote-11)

**1 Corinthians 12:7,11**—But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good….**11**But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

* 1. Spiritual gifts are given in Scripture: **Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**).
  2. The Holy Spirit sovereignly administers the distribution of spiritual gifts
  3. Gift (charisma)—a favor with which one receives without any merit of his own; the gift of diving grace[[12]](#footnote-12)

1. We are to use them in serving one another
   1. Do you know your spiritual gift?
   2. When they are not used, it adversely affects Christ’s body
   3. (Cf. **1 Corinthians 12:5-25**)
2. We are to be good stewards of what God has graciously provided.
   1. We are to use them wisely
   2. Use them obediently

**1 Corinthian 4:2**—In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

1. There are a variety of spiritual gifts
   1. Manifold (poikilos)—a various colors, variegated[[13]](#footnote-13)
   2. Believers may have the same gift, but the expression and demonstration of it a different way
2. Gifts come from the hand of a gracious God
   1. These are not manufactured
   2. They are not human efforts
3. They come in two board categories:
   1. Whoever speaks…

Preaching, teaching, wisdom, knowledge, discernment

* 1. Whoever serves…

Administration, prayer, mercy, helps

To the one who speaks, they must be the utterances of God as revealed in Scripture

**Acts 7:38**—This is the one who was in the [[x](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACT%2525207&version=NASB1995%23fen-NASB1995-27155x)]congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

**Romans 3:2**—Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

To the one who serves, it must be by the strength which God supplies through the power and dependence on the Spirit

**Philippians 4:13**—I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

1. **For the Glory of God**

**11b**so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Conclusion**

Counting the cost of our Christian walk is critical to understanding what God requires of us. We understand the blessing that comes in following Him. We need to understand what it means to not follow Him. There is a price is to be paid for both.

Thankful that His commands are not burdensome. Thankful that He has granted to us everything we need for life and godliness. Thankful that He not only has given us the truth through the Word, but also has modeled exactly what it means to follow Him regardless of the cost.

Thankful that He has promised to those who endure to the end, He will give the crown of life.

**Revelation 3:5**—He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

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1. MacArthur, 239. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strong’s G4993 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Strong’s G3525 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. DeHaan, 117. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. MacArthur, 240. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Lenski, 193. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Strong’s G1614 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Strong’s G5382 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Strong’s G1112 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. MacArthur, 242. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Strong’s G5486 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Strong’s G4164 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)