**1 Peter: Right Thinking, Right Response, Pt 2**

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.*

When God in His kindness saves us, He transfers us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

**Colossians 1:13-14**—*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,****14****in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

That transformation has immediate as well as eternal significance. His work or regeneration not only removes our transgressions, it reorders our lives to live for Him. His redemptive work has immediate effect. We live not for ourselves, but for Him.

**1 Corinthians 6:20**—*For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

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. Be of *sound judgment* (sōphroneō)—be in right mind; be sober; be sober minded; to exercise self-control[[1]](#footnote-2)
  2. Do not be carried away with wrong views
  3. It also has the idea of guarding the mind
  4. **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[[2]](#footnote-3)
   1. Spiritually observant
2. *For the purpose of prayer*
   1. Believers cannot pray properly if their minds are unstable due to worldly pursuits, ignorance of divine truth, or indifference to divine purposes.[[3]](#footnote-4)
   2. Our prayers are richer and deeper when we consider and commune with the living God
3. 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. Deeply love one another

**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. 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.*

1. Be hospitable to one another
   1. Literally—“to love strangers”; given to hospitality; lover of hospitality[[4]](#footnote-5)
   2. We easily love our circle of friends; not so much with outsiders or those in opposition
2. *Without complaint* (gongysmos)—murmuring, grudgingly, grumbling[[5]](#footnote-6)

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

**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[[6]](#footnote-7)

Many a charisma is only some natural endowment or possession which is sanctified in the Christian by the Spirit. Not all charismata were miraculous abilities such as those mentioned in the list recorded in **1 Cor 12:8-10**...but God intends that such an endowment is to be used in service for the members of the church, a service to be rendered for the sake of service and benefit to others with no thought of self save the joy of thus ministering.[[7]](#footnote-8)

* 1. Spiritual gifts are given in Scripture

**Romans 12:3-8**—*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.****4****For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,****5****so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.****6****Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;****7****if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;****8****or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**—*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.****5****And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.****6****There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.****7****But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.****8****For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;****9****to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,****10****and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.****11****But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

* 1. The Holy Spirit sovereignly administers the distribution of spiritual gifts
  2. Gift (charisma)—a favor with which one receives without any merit of his own; the gift of diving grace[[8]](#footnote-9)
  3. As excellent stewards, we are to use what we “received” in such a way as property is entrusted to be administered according to the owner’s will and directions

**Luke 16:1-2, 10**—*Now He was also saying to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions.****2****And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’…* ***10****“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.*

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

(Cf. **1 Corinthians 12:5-25**)

1. 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[[9]](#footnote-10)
   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 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.*

Let us therefore keep ever before us the prospect of hearing Jesus say, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”[[10]](#footnote-11)

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**

The three areas identified here identify how believers are to live godly lives and stand strong and effective in witness to the world: the vertical relationship to God, the horizontal relationship to one another in love, and the outcome of those rightly focused relationships directed toward service based on the gifts God graciously provides.

**Galatians 5:21-24**—*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,****23****gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.****24****Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* ***25****If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

**NOTES**

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**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

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[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G4993 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G3525 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. MacArthur, 240. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strong’s G5382 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G1112 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. MacArthur, 242. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Lenski, 197. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Strong’s G5486 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Strong’s G4164 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. DeHaan, 119. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)