

**Series "Living God Gives A Living Hope"**  
**"Life In The Last Days"**  
**1 Peter 4:7-11**  
**Study-17**

**1 Peter 3:13-5:14 – God's Grace and Suffering.**

**Thought Of The Passage:** "Knowing The End Is Near Should Generate In Us A Love And Desire To Glorify God Through Our Service."

**1. Verse 7 – Knowing The End Is Near**

**2. Verses 7-11 – Living In View Of The End**

**1. Verse 7 – Knowing The End Is Near:**

1 Peter 4:7 – "The end of all things is near;" – The Context – Peter had just spoken about the suffering – 1 Peter 4:5.

"The end is near" in that the believer faces the possibility of death every minute of his life. Jesus can return at any moment!

Peter just spoke of the hope of living eternally – 1 Peter 4:6.

"The end" – "the consummation, fulfillment, purpose attained, goal achieved."

"of all things" – literally, "all men, all people;" the consummation of all people is a reference to the Lord's return – Matthew 24:37-39; Romans 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 16:15, 22:20.

This Passage Teaches – The End Is Near: "is near;" – Greek "to approach, to draw near, has come near," 1 Peter 1:4, 8-12, 20 4:17. John the Baptist used this same word, Matthew 3:2. Christians in the early church expected Jesus to return in their lifetime, Romans 13:12; 1 John 2:18; James 5:8.

1 Peter 1:5

This Passage Teaches – The World Will Not Go On Forever: "The end of all things" – 1 Corinthians 7:31; Hebrews 10:25; 1 John 2:18.

"is near;" – Peter was not saying it will happen in a matter of days, or weeks, or months or even a few years. The Scripture does not give dates, Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:8.

2 Peter 3:8-9; John 9:4

## **2. Verses 7-11 – Living In View Of The End:**

1 Peter 4:7 – “therefore,” – “The end of all things is near,” – What should the believer do in light of this truth? – 1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 John 2:28.

### **Peter Presents 4 Practical Christian Virtues To Hold On To Until The End:**

- 1. Verse 7 – Prayerful Sobriety:** “be of sound judgment” – “right mind;” means “keep your mind steady and clear, clear minded.” A modern equivalent would be “keep cool, don’t panic! Be sensible, reasonable (Godly Thinking).” Don’t be carried away with an inflated view of yourself!

“and sober spirit” – “to be discreet, to be watchful;” carries with it the idea of “alertness and self-controlled, clarity of mind, being spiritually observant.” It is the opposite of being drunk or asleep, 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8.

“for the purpose of prayer.” – Godly thinking, spiritual alertness are crucial to prayer! “In order to pray more effectively, more appropriately.”

Authentic Prayer Includes Listening To God and Responding To God: Colossians 4:2.

Peter failed at Gethsemane, Mark 14:37-38.

“for the purpose of prayer.” – “thoughtful communication with God, be alert in our praying, to be controlled.” Prayer sharpens our awareness, keeps us alert, discerning, reminds us who is in charge!

1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 5:14-15

Dr. Kenneth Wuest, in his translation – “Be calm and collected in spirit with a view to giving yourself to prayer.” Moffatt translation – “Steady then, keep cool and pray.”

- 2. Verse 8 – Fervent Love:** 1 Peter 4:8 – “Above all,” – or “before all things, more than anything else” – “keep fervent” – “deeply, stretching out, or straining, at full strength;” an athlete straining to reach the goal; a horse whose legs are fully extended while galloping.

"in your love" – "agape;" "God's love" for one another; It is through God's love. 1 Peter 1:8, 22; 2:17; 3:8. Jesus' interview with Peter; Jesus used the word "Love" 3X, revealing that the supreme qualification for ministry is love – John 21:15-17.  
1 Peter 1:22

The acid test of a disciple of Jesus Christ is His love!  
John 13:34-35

"because love covers a multitude of sins." – Word "covers" – "to cover up or hide, wins forgiveness for many sins,"  
Proverbs 10:12.

"Cover" Means To Forgive: Psalm 32:1.

Psalm 85:2; James 5:20

We do not love others if we take delight in finding and exposing their faults and sins, Genesis 9:18-27.

**3. Verse 9 – Gracious Hospitality:** 1 Peter 4:9 – "Be hospitable to one another" – "friendly to strangers, offer hospitality."

Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Hebrews 13:2

"without complaint." – "without grumbling, muttering or low speaking, ungrudgingly, with gladness."

**4. Verses 10-11 – Responsible Ministry:** 1 Peter 4:10.

**Every Believer Has Been Given A Spiritual Gift:** "As each one has received a special gift," – "according as he received a gift." Each Christian has at least one spiritual gift, Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:6-11, 28-30; Ephesians 4:1-12.

**Gifts Are Grace-Gifts:** "gift," – Greek word "charisma," which is built upon the word "grace." The gifts therefore are grace-gifts.

**Gifts Are Not A Private Luxury:** "employ it in serving" – "all kinds of service towards others, serving tables." – "one another"

**Gifts Are A Sacred Trust:** "as good stewards" – A "steward" – trusted slave to whom the management of an estate was committed; he was not the owner, only the manager! "good stewards" – one who was true to the trust given to them; faithfully carried out their responsibilities.

"of the manifold" – "many-colored, multi-faceted" – "grace of God."

1 Peter 4:11

Speaking Gifts: "Whoever speaks," – There are speaking gifts – children, teens, adults; Bible study at work, 1 Peter 5:2.

"is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God;" – "oracles of God;" logos, "divine utterance."

Serving Gifts: "whoever serves" – general term for "to render service, to wait upon someone, to care for their needs."

"is to do so as one who is serving" – How can we discover what our gift may be? The answer is serving.

"by the strength which God supplies;" – God will supply all that is needed.

The End Result Of Our Gifts Is To Honor God: "so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,"

Doxology: "to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." – 1 Corinthians 10:31.

"Amen." – The response of the people, "so let it be, so be it!"

Hebrews 6:10

### **Application:**

1. The World Will Not Go On Forever, The End Is Near. This Truth Should Motivate The Believer To Prioritize Their Lives By Living For Him.
2. Prayerful Sobriety – Authentic Prayer includes Listening To God, And Responding To God.
3. Fervent Love – We Do Not Love Others If We Take Delight In Finding And Exposing Their Faults And Sins.
4. Gracious Hospitality – Our Homes Are Not Merely A Place To Hang Out; But It Is A Tool For Ministry.
5. Responsible Ministry – Gifts Are A Sacred Trust, So We Should Not Waste Them.