



# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



2019-9-15

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. *—Psalm 145:11*  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. *—Joshua 22:5*

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?  
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- **Which** of the **five observations** (see **Sermon Summary**) are most **meaningful** to you—and **why**?  
How are you like Peter **[Observations 1 & 3]**? Unlike him? How does his experience inform yours?  
Which action do you **more** need to apply personally—confidence amid alienation **[Observation 2]**  
or affection toward fellow believers **[Observation 5]**? Why do you conclude that?
- **Which** of the **three major messages** (see **Sermon Summary**) is most **timely** for you today? Explain.  
What **concrete action** should you take to begin living that sort of life more consistently? **Be specific!**
- **Which** of the **four lasting lessons** (see **Sermon Summary**) are most **encouraging** to you—and **why**?  
What can **you do** in order to...
  - ...find more joy in trials?
  - ...increase your endurance?
  - ...give and receive more love?
  - ...resist Satan more effectively?



## Application-Challenge

- Complete the enclosed "Digging Deeper" Bible Study.

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



# Sermon Summary

Peter's personality—his zeal, courage, humility, tenderness, forthrightness, and yes, even his impetuousness—is revealed in the letter we call "First Peter". Let's begin with **five observations**:

**[1]** This sounds obvious, but **Peter wrote the letter**. Peter, James and John formed the inner circle of confidants to whom Jesus most fully revealed himself (Matthew 17:1-13; 26:36-46). Peter was the leader and spokesman for Jesus' twelve disciples (Matthew 16:13-16; Acts 2:14-40). Never one to teeter on the fence of indecision, Peter was impulsive, impetuous, and outspoken (Matthew 14:28-29; 17:4; John 18:10). He knew the heights of ecstasy on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-13), and the depths of despair on the night of his denial (Matt. 26:69-75). This is a tremendous encouragement to those of us who sometimes fear that our flaws are too numerous or our failures too enormous to be used by God.

**[2]** **Hurting people were the audience for this letter** (1 Peter 1:1b). They were scattered outside their homeland, lonely, frightened, and unsure of their future. But though they were aliens, they were not abandoned; though they were frightened, they were not forgotten (1:1b-2). If you ever feel "alien", 1 Peter is great reading for you!

**[3]** **Peter**, a rugged, blue-collar Galilean fisherman with little or no schooling **sought the help** of Silvanus (also called Silas), a cultured, educated Roman citizen, **to write this letter** (5:12). Peter, as great as he was, needed the help and talents of others to make his ministry successful.

**[4]** **The letter concludes with** (what appears to be) **a greeting from a woman** (5:13). We don't know if this was Peter's wife (who according to Clement of Alexandria died as a martyr for her faith), or if it is a veiled reference to the church and its members, who represent the bride of Christ.

**[5]** **Peter's final command is of intimate affection** (5:14). Today we might say, "Greet one another with a warm embrace." It demonstrates love and unity (1 Corinthians 16:20) and was a reminder that all injuries were forgiven. (And we must never imitate Judas' deceitful kiss!)

Now let's consider **three major messages** Peter conveys: [1] a living hope and how to claim it (1:1—2:10); [2] a pilgrim life and how to live it (2:11—4:11); [3] a fiery trial and how to endure it (4:12—5:11).

**[1]** Our **"living hope" is claimed by focusing our attention on the Lord** (1:2,7,11, 13, 18-20), **and by trusting in his Word** (1:23-2:2).

**[2]** Our **"pilgrim life" is lived by submission**: in the realm of the **government** (2:13-17), of our **employment** (2:18-20), in the **home** (3:1-7), and in the **church** (3:8-12). In submitting to God-given authorities, we are submitting **to God** (2:13-14).

**[3]** Our **"fiery trials" are endured by trusting the sovereign God** who regulates trials God (4:12-19), **by cooperating with and submitting to the church leadership God has provided to help us** (5:1-5), and **by standing firm and resisting the onslaught of the devil** (5:6-11).

Finally, let's consider now **four lasting lessons** we can draw from Peter's teaching.

**[1]** **When our faith is weak, joy strengthens us** (1:6-8; 4:12-13). Trials are God's tools to strengthen faith and refine character—so we can rejoice!

**[2]** **When we are mistreated, endurance stabilizes us** (2:19-20). Love makes endurance possible (1 Corinthians 13:7), hope makes us steadfast (1 Thessalonians 1:3), and others' godly examples make endurance easier (2 Timothy 3:1-10).

**[3]** **When our confidence is shaken, the love of others supports us** (1 Peter 4:8), and finally,

**[4]** **When our adversary attacks, resistance shields us** (5:8-9).

Throughout this week, let's dig a little deeper into the **three major messages** and the **four lasting lessons** of First Peter:

**Sunday— Our "living hope" is claimed by focusing our attention on the Lord** (1:2,7,11, 13, 18-20), **and by trusting in his Word** (1:23-2:2).

Why is the hope in 1 Peter 1:3 referred to as "living"?

What would that hope be like if Jesus hadn't been raised from the dead (see 1 Cor. 15:17-19)?

How does the resurrection of Christ have future application for the believer (see 1 Cor. 15:20-28)?

How does it have present application (see Romans 6:4-14)?

**Monday— Our "Pilgrim Life" is lived by submission:** in the realm of the **government** (2:13-17), of our **employment** (2:18-20), in the **home** (3:1-7), and in the **church** (3:8-12). In submitting to God-given authorities, we are submitting **to God** (2:13-14).

If our true home is heaven, according to the following passages, how should that affect us as we live our lives here on earth?

Matthew 6:19-21

Philippians 3:20

Colossians 3:1-2

**Tuesday— Our "fiery trials" are endured by trusting the sovereign God** who regulates trials God (4:12-19), **by cooperating with and submitting to the church leadership God has provided to help us** (5:1-5), and **by standing firm and resisting the onslaught of the devil** (5:6-11).

What happens to metal under stress if it hasn't been sufficiently heat treated?

Why then are fiery trials necessary?

How is endurance developed in our lives (see Romans 5:3; James 1:3)?

What is the benefit of enduring trials (see Romans 5:3-5; James 1:4)?

**Wednesday— When our faith is weak, joy strengthens us** (1:6-8; 4:12-13). Trials are God's tools to strengthen faith and refine character—so we can rejoice!

Look up the following passages of Scripture: 2 Corinthians 7:4; Colossians 1:24; Hebrews 12:2 and James 1:2.

What do these have in common? What is God saying to you through these verses?

**Thursday— When we are mistreated, endurance stabilizes us** (2:19-20). Love makes endurance possible (1 Corinthians 13:7), hope makes us steadfast (1 Thessalonians 1:3), and others' godly examples make endurance easier (2 Timothy 3:1-10).

According to the following passages, why is endurance so important? Hebrews 12:1 and Jeremiah 12:5; Hebrews 12:5-11; and James 5:11

According to Isaiah 40:28-31, what great promise does God give to these lacking endurance?

**Friday— When our confidence is shaken, the love of others supports us** (1 Peter 4:8), and finally,

How is God's love for us a support when things are shaky (see Romans 8:31-39)?

How is our love for God a support when circumstances undermine our confidence (see Romans 8:28)?

From 1 Peter 4:8-9, what is a tangible way we can show our love to other Christians?

From Hebrews 13:1-3, what are some other ways (see also Matt. 25:34-40)?

**Saturday— When our adversary attacks, resistance shields us** (5:8-9).

What is the assurance we have if we resist the devil (James 4:7)?

What principle about resistance do we learn from Ecclesiastes 4:12?

What is essential if we are to successfully resist the forces of the enemy (see Ephesians 6:13-17)?