

Connection

It could be your phone or football, but there's probably something in your life that easily distracts you from what's important. What is your big distraction?

Content

The book of 1st Peter begins with a beautiful description of the miracle that God gave us — salvation through Jesus Christ and life forever with him.

1. How do you describe what this gift means to you?

Now, we need to hear what God wants us to do with this message “that even angels long to look into.” He wants us to stand firm. Let's keep talking about what that means.

As We Stand Firm...Set Your Hope

Read 1st Peter 1:13 and 14. It starts with the word “Therefore.” That's a reference to what came before and sets us up for some vital action items. The first is to “set your hope” on Jesus. Amid the busyness of life, we should focus, be alert and sober and constantly look forward to our ultimate reward, “when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”

2. What might be limiting you from setting your hope in this way? Who could you talk to about making a clean break from those limits to focus on Jesus?

As We Stand Firm...Be Holy

Read verses 15 and 16. “Be holy” may seem like an odd action item. Can you just decide to be holy? This is a call to be like Jesus: “...just as he who called you is holy, so be holy...” That means to be sacred, to be set apart for God and for doing his work.

3. You can be holy in many ways, even by talking to someone about Jesus or inviting someone to church. What are some other ways you can be holy?

As We Stand Firm...Conduct Yourself

Read verses 17-21. These verses give even more meaning to setting your hope and being holy. They tell us to live in awe of what Jesus did when he redeemed us with his "precious blood." Our heavenly father handed down a heavenly gift. Peter describes our proper response as "reverent fear."

4. That's not a scary fear, but it is a serious respect for God. What does it mean to you to "fear" God?

As We Stand Firm...Love Each Other

Read verses 22-25. Obeying God's truth is the pathway to loving each other. In fact, loving your brother and sister in Christ from the heart is a product of understanding the extent God went to to save you.

5. Verse 23 talks about being "born again." After reading about it, what does that mean to you? Are you born again?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 and 21. Love is the result of being reconciled to God. And through us, God takes the good news, the gospel of this reconciliation, to the rest of the world. "Come back to God," we should be saying. "We speak for Christ," according to these verses. It takes love to do that.

6. If you've ever been in a situation where you felt you should "speak for Christ," were you able to do it? Will you describe what happened?

Commitment

In 1st Peter 1:24 and 25, we see that the Word of the Lord, the Bible without error, endures forever. It has been "preached" to us. We should preach it to others and Stand Firm.

7. Who is that person in your life that you need to tell about this everlasting Word?