

# Lesson 3: Transforming Character (part 1)

## A Series Thru First Peter

### Transformative Hope

The Bible often speaks of hope, but never in terms of what may happen in the future. Instead, hope is cast in terms of what God has promised will happen in the future. The prologue of First Peter presents our living hope grounded in our inheritance reserved in heaven and what Peter called the “salvation of our souls.” In our lesson today, Peter will refer to the “grace that would come to you” (1:10), “the glories that would follow” (1:11), and “the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:13). Peter wrote to Jewish Christians, who were experiencing some measure of trials and persecution, about their living hope. He wrote to encourage them about the future, in particular their inheritance and their place in the kingdom Messiah Jesus would implement. The certainty of this hope would encourage them during trying times, but should also be a transformative hope as Peter would address in the balance of his epistle. As we will cover today, our living hope should transform how we think and act. We are called to be holy as God is holy.

1. **Of Prophets and Angels (1:10-12)**: The prologue to 1 Peter is verses 1:1-12. Peter referred to the “salvation of the soul” in 1:9, and in the balance of his prologue explained that this “salvation” was seen in bits and pieces by the Old Testament prophets. They did not yet have the complete picture, and even the angels are watching to see what happens.

— What is progressive revelation?

— “grace that should come unto you” (1:10) is God’s provision in Jesus Christ, which includes the new birth but also the living hope that relates to things to come (see 1:13)

— “glories that would follow” (1:11) is the exaltation of Jesus to the right hand of the Father, the appointment of Jesus as heir of all things, and Jesus’ imminent return to implement his kingdom (Psalm 2:7-8; Eph. 1:20-22; Hebrews 1:2-4)

— The “Spirit of Christ” moved the prophets to speak

2. **Application: Transforming How We Think (1:13)**:

Having finished his prologue, Peter wrote “therefore” to signal how what he had to say about our living hope and the salvation of our souls should be applied.

— “gird up the loins of your mind” is a metaphor based on the ancient practice of tucking in your robe before strenuous physical activities. We need to “gird up” any misguided or distracted thinking. (See 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Eph. 6:14)

— “be sober” means alert and ready so we can apply clear thinking to life (See Luke 12:32-37)

— set our minds on the “grace” we will receive when Jesus returns. **NOTE** that this “grace” is the same as the “grace” in 1:10 and the “glory that should follow” in 1:11

3. **Do Not Conform To Your Former Lusts (1:14)**: The reality is that whatever controls our minds controls our lives and if our minds are filled only with the world’s thinking, we will not glorify God with our lives. Peter told his readers not to fashion their lives around the worldly thinking they had before they became Christians.

4. **Be Holy (1:15-16)**: In contrast to conforming to our old thinking, we are to be holy in our conduct. (See Col. 3:1-11)

5. **Life in Fear? (1:17)**: When Peter wrote “if you call on the Father,” the “if” is a Greek first class condition and assumes they do. We could read it as “since you call on the Father.”

Knowing God will judge everyone according to his works, we should conduct ourselves in “fear.” But what is the judgment and what does fear mean in this context?