

Answering Life's Big Questions

A Bible study in 1 Peter



Lesson 7: What Can I Expect?

Summary: God chose me and has rebirthed me, making me His child and part of His family. He has also made me a joint-heir with Jesus. I am inheriting the disposition of Jesus – His love, joy, peace, holiness. I am also inheriting His alien status in the world and the persecution that arises from that. I have inherited the commission of being a witness to the world. And someday, I will inherit final salvation and eternal life! Until then, I am to be living for the glory of God in my thinking, my emotions, and my behavior.

What can I expect to happen between this moment and eternity?

Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (4:12)

1. We can expect _____ that produce grief, sorrow, physical pain, and anxiety.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1:6-7)

- a. Trials of _____. (1:24)
- b. Unjust suffering for _____, (2:19-20) which produces temptations to:
 - i. doubt the _____ of God. (2:9, 23)
 - ii. abandon our _____. (2:20, 5:9)
 - iii. doubt the _____ and _____ of God. (4:19)
 - iv. be _____. (4:16)
 - v. be _____ and _____. (3:14)
- c. Suffering in the flesh that purges _____. (4:1-2)
- d. The suffering of watching _____ suffer. (5:1, 9)

But what about when our suffering stems from consequences of our own sin?

Resulting temptations: to be consumed with shame and guilt and to be fearful and troubled over the messes (often relational) that our sin has caused. A God-ward focus can save us from succumbing to these sins: Having sinned, how can I bring glory to God as I suffer the consequences of my sin?

II Peter 1:9 Remind yourself that you have been _____.

II Corinthians 7:9-10 Make sure your grief in suffering leads you to _____.

James 5:16 Find _____ to confide in and to pray about the healing you need.

II Corinthians 2:7-8 Go to the _____ of God for love and comfort; seek help in not being overcome by guilt and sorrow.

2. We can expect _____ because we have enemies of our souls.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. (2:11)

- a. Enemies from the _____, producing temptations to:
 - i. focus on _____. (3:3-4)
 - ii. _____. (3:6)
 - iii. _____. (4:1-7)
 - iv. _____. (4:9)
 - v. _____. (5:7)
 - vi. _____. (5:5-6)

- b. Enemies from the _____.
 - i. _____. (5:8)
 - ii. Hostile _____. Although not the enemy of our souls, (Eph. 6:12) their treatment of us can create temptations to:
_____ and seek _____ (3:9)
Return to _____ (4:4)

Thinking expectantly and defensively means anticipating the trials and the battles and their associated temptations and being on guard. Expect the temptations! “Watch and pray that you don’t enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” We are to live expectantly so we might resist well.

3. We can expect God’s continual _____ and _____ in our lives!

- a. _____. (1:3, 2:10)
- b. _____. (1:10, 2:20, 5:5)
- c. _____. (2:24)
- d. _____. (3:9, 3:14)

- e. _____ . (1:3, 13)
- f. _____ . (1:5)
- g. _____ . (1:6, 8)
- h. _____ . (4:11)
- i. _____ . (4:10-11)

4. We can expect God’s continual working to accomplish our _____. We can expect Him to use:

- a. _____ (1:2)
- b. _____ (2:2)
- c. _____ (2:5, 4:10)
- d. _____ (5:2)

5. We can expect continual opportunities for _____ in every relationship in our lives. Relationships Peter specifically refers to:

6. We can expect God to be at work in _____.

7. We can expect the earthly journey to _____!

“Certainty is the mark of the common-sense life: gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, we do not know what a day may bring forth. This is generally said with sadness, it should rather be an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. . . When we are rightly related to God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectation. . . Leave the whole thing to Him, it is gloriously uncertain how He will come in, but He will come.” (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*)

Memory verse: And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (I Peter 5:10)

Final questions for thought as you seek to apply the truths of I Peter to your heart and life:

1. Are you daily reminding yourself of the truth of your position as cherished, born again child of God?
2. Are you daily reminding yourself of the great mercy and eternal power that your heavenly Father bestows on you?
3. Are you daily reminding yourself of the inheritance you share with Christ, both now and in eternity?
4. Are you living each day mindful of God and seeking to live to make Him look glorious to everyone around you?
5. Are you thinking energetically and expectantly?
6. Are you allowing your thinking to bring your emotions into line with truth?
7. Are you constantly growing in holiness?
8. Are you properly engaged in serving the body of Christ and allowing it to build up your faith?