



## Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

### Weekly Work + 90-Day Bible Reading Plan | March 8

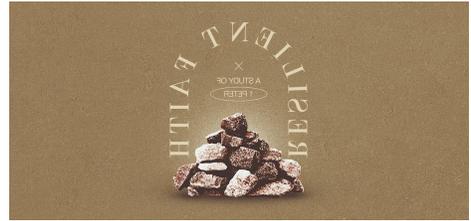
#### Introduction

We want to be a people who have a resilient faith. Throughout this series, our goal is to help us appreciate the unshakable salvation we have in Christ, embrace our treasured identity as God's chosen people and learn what it means to live holy and hopeful lives—even in the face of trials.

**So, let's continue through 1 Peter AND our reading of the New Testament!**

#### Read 1 Peter 4:1-11.

1. Reread verses 1-5. Peter's original readers, living as they did in a pagan society, probably had vivid memories of their sinful pasts. Peter is reminding them that Christ's death not only pays the price for their sins but breaks the power of their pasts. Are there behaviors or patterns from your "pre-Christian" life that still have a hold on you? What would it look like for you to arm yourself with the same attitude Christ had when facing the cross?
2. Are there people in your life who are surprised by your Christian way of living (verse 4)? How does their opinion of you impact you? Is there a desire to compromise in order to impress them? Hold your desire for approval from others before God. Invite the Spirit to convict and encourage you in those places.
3. Verse 6 inspires debate among scholars. Most believe that Peter is saying that the gospel was preached to people who became Christians and have since died, not that the gospel was preached to people who were already dead. Many early Christians thought that Jesus would return during their



lifetimes, so the death of a Christian could seem like a flaw in the plan. Outsiders might look at the Christian's death and jeer, "She believed in Jesus and died anyway. So, what's the point?" Their mistaken expectations could lead to disillusionment. Peter is correcting their assumptions.

Where do you have expectations of the Christian life that might be mistaken? Where have you been disillusioned? What have you read in 1 Peter that could address and correct those expectations?

4. When Peter told believers to be alert and sober-minded so that they could pray (verse 7), it's hard to imagine he wasn't remembering his own sleepiness when the end of Jesus's life was near. (Read Matthew 26:36-46 for the full story.) How does Peter's experience resonate with you? Reflect on areas in your life where "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). In what ways is God calling you to be alert and of sober mind?

5. Read verses 7-11 slowly several times. How can you honor and obey this teaching in your own life this week? Can you extend hospitality, forgive someone who has sinned against you, pray with more alertness, serve others? Reflect and pray on these questions and then note 1-2 specific ways you can respond to this passage in your life this week.



## New Testament Reading Plan

Below is the reading plan for our journey through the New Testament. Each day, set aside a few minutes to read through the text. The goal isn't to solve every riddle or answer every question. The goal is simply to pour God's Words into your mind and heart! After each day's reading, reflect. Use the following questions to help you do so:

- How are you coming to today's reading?
- What stood out to you or resonated with you?
- How does today's reading apply to your life?

After you've finished reading, move to the prayer portion of your weekly devotions to finish your time. Here's the reading for this week:

Day 1: 2 Thessalonians 1–3, Psalm 105

Day 2: 1 Timothy 1–3, Psalm 106

Day 3: 1 Timothy 4–6, Psalm 107

Day 4: 2 Timothy 1–4, Psalms 108–110

Day 5: Titus 1–3, Psalms 111–113

Day 6: Philemon 1, Psalm 114

Day 7: Hebrews 1–3, Psalm 115

## Pray

Based on your time in God's Word today (either in 1 Peter or in the New Testament), write a prayer to the Lord. Share with him your questions, what resonated, where you feel challenged, where you're hoping to grow, where you experienced resistance or difficulty in reading, etc. Use the space below to write your prayer.