

An In-Depth Study of the First Letter of Apostle Peter

[Part 2]

1 Peter 1:10-12 [NIV] *“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”*

The Old Testament prophets and leaders of Israel were **not** blessed with the knowledge we have since the first coming of Jesus Christ.

In spite of this lack of knowledge, even not fully understanding what the Holy Spirit was inspiring them to write, they exhibited as servants of the Creator God, great faith.

We can read the condensed account of this great faith in Hebrews chapter eleven.

Although none of us in this generation have seen Jesus Christ, we also can have great faith in what the Holy Spirit has inspired to be written in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Like these prophets and teachers of the Old Testament were **not** able to experience the very culmination of what **they wrote for our benefit**.

We too are being prepared by God to be of service, at and after the return of Jesus Christ, to all who have never had their minds opened to the great plan that God has for all humanity.

The remnant of humans who will come out of the great tribulation as expounded in the book of Revelation and the massive resurrection of the dead from all generations that is the time of the “*great white throne*,” [**Revelation 20:11-13**].

All are our future students, who are part of the “*firstfruits*.”

This will be their first opportunity for salvation and it will be the task we will be given by Jesus Christ as priests [teachers] and kings [ruling servants].

It will be **our task** to open up the scriptures, found in the Christian Bible, to lead them towards repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ. See **Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 1:4-6**.

1 Peter 1:13 [NIV] *“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*

When we see the word “*therefore*” in scripture we need always to ask the question, “*what is it there for?*”

We will always find the answer by reading what is written before and after the word “*therefore*.”

What do we read in this example?

The knowledge that has been revealed to us is **not** for us alone but for as many as God chooses, other human beings who have been blinded to the purpose of human life by Satan. [**Revelation 12:9**]

For this future task we are to prepare our minds for action.

How do we do this?

All that we will need to re-educate these people, who have been blinded by Satan, is found in the pages of God's Christian Bible.

John 16:13 [NIV] *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

Our task now is to study these words in the Christian Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into “all truth.”

John 14:26 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

The Holy Spirit will then be able to bring all this to our remembrance when we need it in our future work as teachers [priests] working under Jesus Christ.

John 7:37-39 [NIV] *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.**” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

Such preparation will need self-control, and accepting the cleansing power of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us, and also through us.

The works of love and compassion the Holy Spirit will prompt us to do now, will also prepare us for our future work.

James 2:17 [NIV] *“In the same way, **faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**”*

As James reminded us in his letter that knowledge and faith without works is barren or dead.

1 Peter 1:14-16 [NIV] *“As **obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”**”*

Three things are given us here as part of our preparation for our future work with our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

- a) Obedience to Jesus Christ.
- b) **Not** conforming to the ways of this Satan-driven evil society. [**1 John 5:19**]
- c) Seek to become the holy person that we have been called to become.

The word translated “holy” is “*hagiōs*” which fundamentally signifies a separation for a special task.

Separated in two ways –

- a) Separated from sin by the cleansing of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- b) Separated from the world's society and culture, this will involve sacrifice on our part.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Note the mention of holiness in this personal sacrifice and the remaking of our motivations in life.

This is the way we prepare to fulfil the will of our God and Saviour.

1 Peter 1:17 [NIV] *“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.”*

None of this preparation for our future life and work can be accomplished without a “reverent fear” of our Creator and Saviour.

Also we need remember we will all be judged by our Saviour Jesus Christ on what we do or fail to do in our present human lives.

1 Peter 1:18-19 [NIV] *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

Do we know and accept the two truths referred to in these verses?

- a) The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is beyond price, we cannot buy our salvation.
- b) Our life, before we were called by God to be disciples and servants of Jesus Christ, was empty and without any real value.

1 Peter 1:20 [NIV] *“He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”*

Do **not** read over the last three words in this verse, “for your sake.”

Believe this, thank God daily for it and dedicate our lives to Jesus Christ as our response to such a blessing.

1 Peter 1:21 [NIV] *“Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”*

Our faith and hope for the future must be centred on the person of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:22 [NIV] *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.”*

This obedience to Christ and a Christ-centred life, has to be one that is filled with practical love for all other human beings.

A deep and genuine love that comes from the heart, the driving force of our life.

1 Peter 1:23-25 [NIV] *“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands for ever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.”*

1 John 3:14 [NIV] *“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.”*

As Holy Spirit filled Christians, filled with love, one of the “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, we have already passed over from death to life. [**John 5:24**]

1 John 5:11-12 [NIV] “*And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*”

When we are filled with the Word of God, the scriptures of the Christian Bible and the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, we already have eternal life within us.

What we have just studied is eternal life for we are coming to know God and Jesus Christ.

John 17:3 [NIV] “*Now **this is eternal life:** that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*”

The Greek word translated “*know*” is “*gnōskō*” which refers to a very intimate relationship, the intimate relationship of a husband and wife. [See **Luke 1:34**]

Eternal life will **not** be long enough to know the depths of God’s love and mercy, but we can look forward to a continual revelation of the character and the will of our Creator God.