

Principles of 1 Peter 1:1-2

- The recipients of Peter's letter are believers who, according to God the Father's omniscience (foreknowledge), have been selected (chosen) to be members of the Church and receive all of the blessings He has designed for the Body of Christ in His perfect plan for the ages.
- These believers have been set apart (sanctified) by the Holy Spirit at the very moment each one placed his or her faith in Jesus Christ.
- This sanctification is positional, but the purpose in view is that each believer might live a life of obedience being purified through the Word (1 Pet 1:22).
- The "sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ" refers to the application of the sacrificial work of our Savior on the cross to all who believe.
- This is the reality which had been depicted in O.T. sacrifices (Ex 24:6-8; 29:16-21; Lev 1:5,11; 3:2,8,13; 4:6,17; 5:9; 7:2,14; 8:19,24,30; 9:12,18; 16:14-19; 17:6; Heb 9:13-21; 12:24).
- Note that in this passage obedience precedes the sprinkling of the blood just as it does in God's perfect plan.
 - As unbelievers, we must obey the gospel (2 Thess 1:8; 1 Pet 4:17).
 - As believers, we must obey the command of God to confess our sins (1 John 1:9).
- It is through our submission to God's plan and purpose for our lives (which includes obedience of His commands) that we are able to experience the multiplied abundance of grace and peace He has designed for us.

Principles of 1 Peter 1:3

- Our heavenly Father is worthy of all our praise (Mk 14:61; Lk 1:68; Rom 1:25; 9:5; 2 Cor 1:3; 11:31; Eph 1:3; 1 Pet 1:3).
- God's mercy is exceedingly abundant and was directed toward us even when we were still His enemies (Eph 2:4; Titus 3:5).
- According to His mercy, God has saved us into a life filled with expectation.
- As believers we should expect that...
 - if we die we will be resurrected as Jesus Christ has been (1 Cor 15:12ff).
 - God will fulfill his promises (Acts 26:6-7).
 - we will one day be in the presence of God in all His glory (Rom 5:2).
 - our lives are without end (Titus 1:2).
 - we will be saved from the wrath to come in Daniel's 70th week (1 Thess 5:8-9).

Principles of 1 Peter 1:4-5

- As born-again believers we are fellow heirs with our Savior Jesus Christ (Rom 8:16-17) who has been appointed heir of all things (Heb 1:2).
- Since everything that Christ has is ours, everything that we have should be His.
- The Holy Spirit has been given to us as a pledge of our inheritance (Eph 1:11-14).
- Unlike an earthly inheritance, our heavenly inheritance cannot be stolen or damaged in any way and it will not rot or fade away over time.
- Understanding this promised inheritance which is being guarded by the power of God is a key to living life with an eternal perspective – filled with expectation.
- Regardless of whether or not we remain faithful to God during our lives, God is faithful to preserve His own children (Jn 10:28-29).
- The same omnipotent power that raised Jesus from the dead continually protects us now and will raise us up if/when we die physically (1 Cor 6:14).
- God has already effectively “raised us from the dead” through His power in our spiritual birth when we heard the gospel and believed (Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:18).
- One glorious day (soon?) our Savior will descend from heaven with a shout, our resurrection bodies will be revealed and we will meet Him in the air (1 Th 4:16-17).
- At this event, the Rapture of the Church, all of the members of the Body of Christ will be together for the first time, the Bride of Christ will be complete and she will be presented to the Bridegroom.
- We should abound in the work of the Lord in anticipation of this glorious day God has promised (1 Cor 15:50ff).

Principles of 1 Peter 1:6-7

- We can have joy, even joy to the point of great rejoicing, when we are occupied with Christ and recognize all the blessings we possess.
- This joy is the result of fellowship with God and coming to know Him through His word.
- This joy is not dependant on circumstances, so no amount of distress in our lives can steal away this happiness which comes from God.
- It is necessary for believers to face testing in this life and God has designed this testing for approval – the proving of our faith in Him.
- This testing will often result in real mental and emotional distress, but when we apply faith to the situation the armor of God will protect us from a sinful response of fear, anger, anxiety, self-pity, and things such as these.
- If we fail to apply faith to the situation, we are choosing instead to rely upon the power of the flesh and will indeed react sinfully.
- Faith which has been proven through such testing is worth more than earthly gold because it results in heavenly gold, silver and precious stones.
- At the Judgment Seat of Christ when fire has revealed the divine good deeds (gold, silver and precious stones) in our lives, praise and glory and honor will result.
- While we may participate in the praise and glory and honor, ultimately all the praise and glory and honor go to God because He is the One who has produced all these results.

Principles of 1 Peter 1:8-9

- We did not need to see our Savior with our eyes to believe in Him (John 20:29) because we came to know Him through the word of God (Rom 10:17).
- The O.T. saints looked forward and believed in the coming Messiah having never seen him just as we look back and believe in Jesus Christ having never seen Him.
- Likewise, our moment-by-moment walk is by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 4:18; 5:7), and we love based upon knowing God, not seeing Him (1 John 4:12, 20).
- The more we know Christ, the more we love Him, and there is a reward in heaven for those whose love of the Lord is put to the test and yields perseverance (James 1:12).
- The believer's joy is based upon understanding his relationship to Christ, not upon the details and circumstances of life (Hab 3:17-18; Phil 4:11; 1 Tim 6:6-8; Heb 13:5).
- The believer's joy is made full by consistently experiencing fellowship with God (Acts 13:52; 1 John 1:3-4) and abounding in hope (Rom 15:12).
- No words for happiness and joy (in any language) are adequate to describe the inner bliss and serenity that the believer can have when he delights in the things of the Lord.
- We do not need to wait until we get to heaven to experience heavenly joy, but our present joy depends upon our present faith and the ongoing character of our thoughts.
- As we occupy ourselves with Christ – all that He is and has done for us – the exultant joy that results is a glorious praise to God and His power to transform.
- Faith has value only in its object. Faith in Jesus Christ is of infinite value resulting in the salvation of our souls – in the past, in the present, and in the future.

Principles of 1 Peter 1:10-12

- The O.T. prophets intently studied the Word of God – that which they had written and that which had come before.
- We are also expected to pour over the Bible from cover to cover to verify what we have been taught (Acts 17:11) and to make sure we accurately handle the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).
- These O.T. prophets would have loved to have seen and heard what we now know (Matt 13:17; Luke 10:24), but they died believing the promises (Heb 11:13, 39).
- They wrote down what the Holy Spirit revealed to them (2 Pet 1:21) including prophecy about the suffering Messiah which have been fulfilled (Matt 26:24ff).
- The dispensation in which we live was not revealed to the O.T. prophets, so despite all of their diligence they were unable to reconcile in their thinking the suffering Messiah and reigning, glorified Messiah.
- Given what they knew, they hypothesized that the Messiah might be multiple people or that He might come multiple times.
- Since we now know that some prophecies concerning Christ were literally fulfilled during the 1st Advent, our expectation should be that the prophecies relating to 2nd Advent will also literally be fulfilled.
- We should endeavor to understand these unfulfilled prophecies even though we may not fully discern every last detail.
- As we study the N.T. Scripture we see how the writings of the O.T. prophets continue to be relevant for our understanding...
 - Hab 2:4 -> Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38
 - Gen 15:6 -> Rom 4:3, 9, 22; Gal 3:6; Jas 2:23
- God's word endures forever and we testify to this when we report the gospel of Jesus Christ to others (1 Pet 1:20-25).
- This message of salvation is fascinating to the angels who were created individually in righteousness and fell individually.
- The angels looked on in amazement when the Son of God came in the flesh, was delivered over for our salvation, was raised from the dead and taken up in glory (1 Tim 3:16).

Principles of 1 Peter 1:13-16

- This passage drives home five calls to action. We are to...
 - Prepare our minds for action by immersing ourselves in God's word
 - Remain composed at all times through the filling of the Holy Spirit
 - Wholeheartedly place our confidence in God's promises of His grace to come
 - Avoid being influenced by the lusts of the flesh by relying upon the strength of the Holy Spirit
 - Strive to become holy in all aspects of our lives in accordance with God who is perfect holiness
- Our minds are prepared by the word of God just as the heavens and the earth themselves were prepared by His word (Ps 33:6-9; Heb 11:3; 2 Pet 3:5).
- As children of Light we should walk in the Light so we remain alert and composed at all times (1 Thess 5:4-8; 2 Tim 4:5; 1 Pet 4:7; 5:8).
- God wants hope (confident expectation) to dominate our thinking (Rom 5:1-2) as we look to the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-14).
- We should have an attitude of humility, becoming obedient like our Savior (Phil 2:5-8) learning obedience from the things we suffer (Heb 5:8).
- Our obedience should spring forth from our relationship with God, not legalism.
- This obedience is seen through our words and actions, but true obedience begins with our thoughts (2 Cor 10:5).
- The things of our former manner of life should remain in the past (Rom 6:12-14; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Eph 4:17-24; 2 Pet 1:2-9).
- God makes us holy by cleansing us from all unrighteousness when we sin (1 John 1:9), but it is only through continual humility (fear/respect) before God that we are *perfected* in holiness (2 Cor 7:1).

Principles of 1 Peter 1:17-21

- Our Heavenly Father is a perfect and impartial judge who evaluates each of us according to our works (human/divine).
- Being aware that our all-knowing and all-powerful Father is the One with whom we have to do (Heb 4:13) demands a way of life exemplified by respect/fear/awe.
- It is a humble act of submission as a child when we call to the Father in prayer.
- Our prayers are heard and answered based upon God's grace, not our merit.
- That grace privilege is available to us based solely upon the blood (sacrificial death) of our Savior Jesus Christ.
- His precious blood ransomed us from our pathetic, empty lives as unbelievers...
 - enslaved to the passions of the flesh
 - following the patterns of our ancestors
- God in His omniscience always knew He would send His Son to die for our sins, and He has been manifested to/for us.
- Our faith in the manifested Christ also entails faith in God the Father who...
 - imputed our sins to Christ on the Cross
 - was satisfied with the penalty Christ paid
 - resurrected Christ from the tomb
 - lifted Christ up into heaven
 - seated Christ in glory at His right hand

Principles of 1 Peter 1:22

- Purification involves the removal of all foreign elements which in the case of the heart (Jas 4:8), soul (1 Pet 1:22) and self (1 John 3:3) describes the replacement of human viewpoint with divine viewpoint.
- Jesus Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from the slave market of sin and to purify us as a people for His own possession (Ti 2:14).
- Obedience to the truth begins with faith in Jesus Christ at gospel hearing and thereafter by following God's other commandments.
- As we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God's love is being manifested in us (1 John 4:9).
- As we obey God's command to express His love toward our brothers and sisters in Christ, His love is perfected in us (1 John 4:12-17).
- This verse tells us that the standard for our love toward one another is that it should be genuine, fervent, and from the heart.
- When we love God, obeying His command to love one another with genuine ἀγάπη love is not in any way burdensome (1 Jn 4:21-5:3).

Principles of 1 Peter 1:23-25

- We can become God-aware through natural revelation (Rom 1:20), but the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is only known through the special revelation that is the living and eternal Word of God (Jas 1:18; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Cor 1:21; Heb 4:12; Luke 21:33).
- No matter what earthly greatness or glory we might attain to, such things are temporary and transitory (Job 14:1-2; Ps 144:4; Ja 4:14).
- That which is of God is eternal and does not fade away with time (His word, our salvation, our eternal inheritance, etc.).
- The things we are preoccupied with and motivated by affect our earthly production...
 - A focus on things which are temporary and transitory yields that which is perishable.
 - A focus on things which are eternal yields that which is eternal.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:1

- The sins mentioned here (malice, trickery, hypocrisy, envy, slander) all have to do with our relationships with other people.
- The words “all” and the “all sorts of” implied by the plural nouns eliminate any possibility of making excuses for this type of behavior.
- God wants us to rid ourselves of these mental attitude and overt sins which harm others and hinder the growth of the one who sins.
- The believer who thinks and acts this way is in the business of self-exaltation, most often at the expense of others.
- The truly humble believer does not desire any gain in life which does not come from God [1 Pet 5:6] and does not engage in self-promoting thoughts or activities.
- Instead of cutting down other believers, the humble believer rejoices in their gains.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:2-3

- Mental attitude sins hinder our spiritual growth [Heb 12:1] and believers must set them aside through recognition (humble response to the convicting ministry of the Holy Sp.), repentance (change of mind about sins) and admission (confession of sins).
- Newborn babies crave milk often and new believers should likewise crave spiritual milk.
- Regardless of where we are in terms of our spiritual growth, we should always have a deep desire for the nourishment of the word of God including both solid food and milk.
- Just as the quality of the food affects physical development, the quality of the spiritual food affects spiritual development.
- New believers are especially susceptible to erroneous teaching, so it is important to find a church where sound doctrines are taught.
- It is also important to find a local church where prayer and fellowship are emphasized since these are important instruments in our spiritual development and nurture.
- Every believer has tasted the grace of God in the incredible gift of salvation.
- Having tasted His amazing grace, we should hunger to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so that we might be examples of grace, love, mercy, etc. to those around us – most especially to the brothers and sisters in our local church.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:4

- As believers, we have been born again to a living hope [1:3] through the living word of God [1:23] that we might come to (fellowship with) the living stone [2:4].
- Peter makes it clear that the risen Christ, not Peter, is the corner stone of the Church and foundation of our faith (see Mt 16:18).
- Every believer, no matter how mature, can draw closer to Jesus Christ, drawing near to Him in intimate fellowship and feasting upon His precious word.
- There is individual as well as corporate growth (see verse 5) that takes place as believers in a local church grow up in the things of God and draw nearer to Him.
- Man's estimation of the Lord Jesus Christ found Him to be worthless, whereas God finds Him to be of infinite value.
- The Jewish people were looking for a king, someone born into nobility and of great celebrity, and rejected Jesus Christ because the basis of their assessment of the Messiah was inherently flawed.
- In a similar way, we can create our own biased tests to evaluate other believers which do not line up with the Scriptures and can cause us to improperly evaluate their walk with the Lord.
- God's "opinion" is what really matters and His assessment can be understood by studying the whole counsel of His word.
- Since God has such high regard for His Son Jesus Christ, we should also give Him honor by making Him the focal point of our lives.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:5

- We are living stones which identifies us with the Living Stone (Jesus Christ) and the life we possess came through faith in Him [Eph 2:5, 8].
- God is constructing a living, spiritual building made up of all of the believers in the Church [1 Cor 3:9; Eph 2:19-22] and we can participate [Rom 14:19; 15:2].
- We *are* a priesthood as a result of our position in Christ [v. 9], but we are being built up to be a *holy* priesthood as we grow as a body in the word of God.
- Since we are a spiritual house we bring spiritual offerings rather than animals, grain, etc. as the Aaronic priesthood did [Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15-17].
- Jesus Christ is our mediator and, through Him, we (as priests) are able to make our own individual spiritual offerings to God, face-to-face.
- We must be careful how we live our lives because our “offering” before God may not be pleasing to Him [Jer 6:16-20].
- When a born-again believer lives his life as unto the Lord and for His glory, God receives this sacrifice with great pleasure because it is offered on the basis of the believer’s relationship with Christ.
- However, a believer who walks in the darkness (carnality) cannot do anything to please God [Rom 8:6-8].

Principles of 1 Peter 2:6

- God has put into place the cornerstone, Christ Jesus Himself [Eph 2:20], which was described in O.T. Scriptures, but we now understand to be the foundation of the Church (not Peter).
- This cornerstone is also the foundation of our faith upon which all of our building (growth, through ongoing faith) occurs.
- When our faith rests upon God's perfect provision, there is no possibility of disappointment, disgrace, humiliation, shame, etc.
- This includes His provision for salvation as well as His day-by-day provisions for the walk of the believer (post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation).
- Just as we should have no doubt that our salvation is secure, we should also have no doubt that our sins are washed clean when we confess them to God.
- Satan may try to induce us to feel guilty about our sins and the world may try to razz us about our faith in Jesus Christ, but we will never be disappointed by Him.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:7-8

- For those who believe in Him, Jesus Christ has a value that is immeasurable.
 - Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith: our Savior, Redeemer, Keeper, Advocate, Intercessor, etc.
 - The more we grow and begin to grasp the infinite value of knowing Christ [Phil 3:8], the more precious He becomes to us.
- For those who disbelieve (reject Him), Jesus Christ is a cause for stumbling – just the mention of His name can elicit ugly and hateful responses from unbelievers.
- This rejection of Jesus Christ is not done in ignorance, but after close examination and evaluation these people deem Christ to be worthless.
- These unbelievers are in disobedience of (rebellion against) God's word, and they have been assigned to stumble because of their rejection of Christ.
- Even though He was rejected by His own people (the Jews), God the Father has placed Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of our faith and the Church itself.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:9-10

- The Church is a distinct group of people within God's plan for the ages...
 - God selected the Church as His appointed stewards during this phase of His plan.
 - Every member of the Church is part of a royal priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek with Jesus Christ as our High Priest [Heb 5:5-10].
 - The Church is a "nation" of believers with a heavenly citizenship who have been called to a life of holiness [1 Pet 1:15-16].
 - The Church is a precious possession of God, bought by the blood of His Son Jesus Christ to be His body and His bride.
- As God's selected stewards...
 - We must be found trustworthy as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God [1 Cor 4:1-2].
 - We should employ our gifts in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God [1 Pet 4:10].
 - Pastors are held to a high standard [Ti 1:7-9].
- The priesthood of Israel...
 - During the stewardship of Israel the priestly activities fell into three categories...
 - High Priest
 - Priest
 - Levite
 - All Jewish priests were male descendants of Aaron [Num 3:10].
 - The Levites were other male members of the tribe of Levi.
 - The Jewish priests performed their service in the temple (initially, the tabernacle) where they wore special vestments, tended to ceremonial vessels, performed sacrifices, and taught the word of God to the people.
 - The high priest was the spiritual head of Israel and performed special functions such as entering the Holy of Holies.
 - The Levites assisted the priests, sang songs, helped in the preparation of certain sacrifices and offerings, kept the courts clean, and participated in the teaching.
 - Through Israel's priesthood the people made their intercessions and petitions before God, offered worship to God, and learned of God's will.
 - Thus, what took place in every devout Jewish home occurred in a larger and more ceremonial way in the temple.
- The priesthood of the Church...
 - Every born-again believer, regardless of earthly parentage, is a member of the priesthood that functions today.
 - Our High Priest is Jesus Christ Himself...
 - The permanent High Priest [Heb 7:23-24]
 - The interceding High Priest [Heb 7:25]

- The perfect High Priest [Heb 7:26-28]
- The glorified High Priest [Heb 8:1-2]
- As Church age priests we offer spiritual sacrifices [1 Pet 2:5]...
 - Through praise [Heb 13:15]
 - Through divine good and sharing [Heb 13:16]
 - Through prayer [Rev 8:3-4]
 - By giving [Phil 4:15-18]
 - By walking in love [Eph 5:2]
- Our ultimate spiritual service of worship as Church age priests involves presenting ourselves to God as a living and holy sacrifice [Rom 6:12-13; 12:1; 1 Cor 6:20].
- Thus, Christ is not only our High Priest, but He serves as the pattern for our service and function as priests.
- As a “nation” of believers and a people for God’s own possession, we who are called together into one body should be characterized by unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace [Eph 4:3].
- Our privileges and the special place we have in God’s plan should motivate us to proclaim His virtues to the world.
- When we compare our former lost estate to the position we now have in Christ, we should be continually grateful and always remember that without God’s mercy and grace we would be headed for the Lake of Fire for all of eternity.
- Ask yourselves this question: “What am I doing with the blessings I have in Christ?”

Principles of 1 Peter 2:11-12

- We cannot earn nor will we ever deserve to be objects of God's love, yet by His matchless grace through faith in Christ, we are His beloved.
- While we are given plenty of commands in the Scriptures, many passages like this "urge" us to make choices that glorify God (grace v. law).
- As believers we are strangers and aliens in the world, but unfortunately many believers are comfortable in the world and strangers of Christ.
- This comfort with the world is a direct result of a focus on temporal life and its passing pleasures rather than eternal life and its many blessings.
- This world is full of temptations, so it is critical that we make moment-by-moment choices in our lives that prevent us from being exposed to those temptations that tend to get the best of us.
- When we do encounter temptations we must avail ourselves of the strength of the Holy Spirit.
- When we give in to temptation we allow the fleshly lusts to openly wage war upon our souls.
- When we repeatedly succumb to temptation we begin to become more and more comfortable with our sins and gradually tune out the Holy Spirit who convicts us of how ugly sin really is.
- Not only is our soul harmed by failure to abstain from these fleshly lusts, but likewise our witness is diminished as well.
- While we do not seek glory from people, it is important to represent Christ to those around us as this may affect their response to the gospel.
- Our every day actions (deeds) are noticed by unbelievers and can sway their view of Christians (and Christ) either in a positive or negative way.
- Ultimately each person is accountable for his own decision at gospel hearing, but each believer is also held accountable for the manner of his walk.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:13-14

- God has established human government as an authority over us [Rom 13:1].
- We obey the authorities and the laws of the land for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Unless a law prohibits us from obeying God's commands, compliance with the law is an act of obedience to God [Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Rom 13:2].
- Refusing to go along with the laws of the land (unless they prohibit us from obeying God) is equivalent to rejecting God's divine institution of human government and/or the authority He has placed over us.
- This principle is true regardless of the form of government we find ourselves living under.
- Whether we live in a democracy, a republic, a monarchy, etc., we should rejoice in any governing system that brings proper punishment upon the criminals and allows those who obey the law to prosper.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:15-17

- By living as good citizens of our nation as unto the Lord and according to Biblical principles, we will effectively silence our critics.
- Foolish men may continue to slander us, but their words will carry no weight if our words and deeds do not match up with their accusations.
- We are blessed with many freedoms in Christ, but should never use these freedoms as a license to sin [1 Cor 8:9; Gal 5:13; Jude 4].
- Our freedoms should be exercised as bondslaves of God who seek after those things which are profitable for others [1 Cor 10:23; Rom 15:2].
- We should give honor and respect to everyone realizing that every person is a soul that Christ died for [2 Cor 5:14-15; Heb 2:9].
- Beyond basic honor and respect, we are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ [John 13:34; Rom 13:8; Gal 6:10; 1 Jn 5:1].
- This type of love comes from God [1 Thess 4:9; 1 Jn 4:7-21], requires the filling of the Holy Spirit [Rom 5:5], is not based upon compatibility or rapport with the person being loved, and does not expect anything in return [1 Cor 13:5].
- If we know God, we will be in awe of Him – this humility is the foundation of wisdom [Pr 1:7].
- This awe is not a trembling fear or some kind of terror, but a proper respect for God that accompanies peace in believers [Acts 9:31] and leads to the perfection of holiness [2 Cor 7:1].
- We are to give honor to the king because we know God has placed him in authority over us, without regard to the merits of the individual.
- If we follow the four imperatives given in v. 17, what can anyone say against us that will stick?
- As hard as it may sound, these principles apply no matter where we live and no matter what form of government we find ourselves under.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:18-20

- We should respectfully submit to the authority God places over us regardless of the merits of the person or organization.
- We do this as unto the Lord with proper respect for the office or institution in view, knowing also that the Lord Jesus Christ is in control of history.
- As born again believers our “job” here on this earth is to serve God and glorify Christ and one way to do this is to be the best possible servants to our earthly masters – without complaining.
- Likewise, we serve God and glorify Christ when we are “good and fair” masters to those who serve under us.
- If we want to find favor with God, our service must be done...
 - while in fellowship (walking in the Light).
 - with our minds focused on Him (abiding).
 - for His glory only (not for our own glory and without expectation of approval/affirmation).
 - patiently, even when we suffer unjustly.
- All believers will encounter some suffering in this life [John 16:33], but such suffering will produce growth for the believer and glory for God when the tribulation is endured through His provision of peace, patience, strength, stability, etc. which can only happen when there is genuine, humble submission to the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The same suffering can be tolerated in the power of the flesh and have an outward appearance of holiness, but will eventually result in bitterness, anger, frustration, complaining, etc. and will not please God or bring Him glory in any way.
- Even if our suffering comes about as a result of our sins, when we confess our sins and face the suffering in the power of God we will bring Him glory through the spiritual fruit we bear while enduring the consequences of our sins.

Principles of 1 Peter 2:21-25

- As born again believers we are invited (called) by God to share the sufferings of Christ [1 Pet 4:13].
- Following Him [Mt 16:24] and learning from His life is not a difficult path to choose [Mt 11:29-30].
- By manifesting God's strength and joy in time of testing, we are imitators of Christ which is a witness to everyone around us [1 Thess 1:6-7].
- Jesus was absolutely innocent (free from sin), so all of His suffering was undeserved and unjust (and He alone was qualified to be our substitute).
- Even though He was treated unjustly Jesus did not resort to vengeful tactics, but instead turned over those who mistreated Him to His Father in heaven who is the perfect arbiter of justice.
- Likewise, we should not seek vengeance against those who treat us unfairly, but should pray for them and allow God to deal justly with them.
- Jesus suffered in His life and taught us how to faithfully endure suffering, but in His death He was taking our place (substitution) in order to accomplish God's perfect plan for salvation.
- Jesus Christ set the ultimate example of how to endure suffering both in His life and death, but we will never suffer as He did in His death.
- The sins of the world were laid upon the sinless humanity of Christ on the cross [2 Cor 5:21] and, although He never stopped being God, He did not use His own divine capacity to endure the cross.
- Jesus Christ in His humanity paid the penalty for our sins (spiritual death) on the cross and, as a result, He has separated us from them – as far as the east is from the west [Psalm 103:12].
- When we believe in Jesus Christ, we receive the righteousness of God [Rom 3:21-22] and the ability to display His righteousness in our lives.
- In the instant we believe on Him, we are healed spiritually (made alive [Eph 2:5]) and reconciled to God [Rom 5:10; 2 Cor 5:18; Col 1:22].
- Having been saved by grace through faith in Him, Jesus now oversees our souls, guarding us from Satan and other elements of this lost and dying world that might attempt to lead us astray.

- In addition to Christ Himself tending to and guarding our souls, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit who protects us from the spiritual warfare taking place all around us [2 Tim 1:14].
- Only through senseless acts of rebellion (negative volition) on our part do we ever find ourselves in a vulnerable position [Isa 63:10; Ps 106:33].

Principles of 1 Peter 3:1-6

- Just as believers in general are commanded to be in humble submission to the governmental and employment authorities placed over us, believing wives are to submit to their own husbands.
- This humble submission is commanded even in the situation where the husband is an unbeliever.
- In fact, the heart attitude of respect and the innocent behavior that results has the potential to win an unbelieving husband to Christ.
- Likewise, a wife who displays this kind of humility can have an effect on a believing husband who is walking in darkness – leading him to repentance.
- The reason this submission has such an effective witness is because it reflects God’s design for the relationship between man and wife [1 Cor 11:3].
- This powerful witness of a submissive wife can even extend beyond the husband to all men who closely observe her respectful behavior.
- There are three types of women who will resist following this command...
 - Those who have been married a long time and are already entrenched in patterns of behavior.
 - Those who have given up on their marriage and are not willing to try anything to “fix” it.
 - Those who are young and naïve about marriage.
- In order for a woman to obey this command she must allow God to make a change in her soul first followed by a change in the observable behavior.
- A woman with a calmness and stability about her which is reflected in her marriage relationship illustrates our proper relationship with Christ.
- This inner beauty of the woman has always been precious to God and there are many examples of women in the Bible to teach us about this.
- The submission of a wife to her husband does not in any way imply inferiority and no woman is to be intimidated by her husband.
- Husbands who misunderstand headship may try to use intimidation to force their wives into submission, but this will never be successful.
- Resting in God eliminates the negative effects of intimidation which can destroy the inner beauty that leads to true submission as unto the Lord.
- Scriptures: Eph 5:22; Col 3:18; 1 Tim 2:9; 5:5

Principles of 1 Peter 3:7

- A husband must apply the appropriate principles learned from verses 1-6...
 - A believing husband can be a witness to an unbelieving or a carnal wife.
 - This witness comes from inner “beauty” which is a gentle, considerate and composed spirit and is reflected in holy, innocent behavior.
 - The husband can look to Biblical examples to learn how to be a godly head of his household.
 - Husbands also need to rest in the Lord to avoid being torn down by intimidation from their wives which will damage their inner spiritual “beauty”.
- A husband should make it a priority to share a home life with his wife (and children).
- Interaction with his wife should be governed by accumulated knowledge of her personality (and sin nature) as well as knowledge of the Bible.
- A husband should interact with his wife with tenderness – as if she were a weaker vessel.
- This gentle, tender care of his wife is masculine in nature – he does not “show his feminine side”.
- A husband should avoid a “superiority complex” always recognizing that he and his wife are fellow heirs of the grace of life in God’s perfect plan.
- Apart from the Lord, a man’s wife should be the most precious person in his life (> children).
- A husband should show this appreciation for his wife by...
 - Never taking her for granted.
 - Showing her kindness and grace in allowing (and encouraging) her to mature in the Word.
 - Guarding her soul from spiritual duress which might cause her to stumble in her walk.
 - Providing an example of emotional stability in the home for her (and the children) to follow.
 - Never treating her harshly which can lead to resentment and bitterness in her soul.
- Showing proper respect and honoring (valuing) his wife in this way is pleasing to God.
- If the proper relationship of mutual respect does not exist between a husband and his wife, it will have a negative impact on the prayer life of the couple as well as each of the spouses.

Principles of 1 Peter 3:8-12

- Believers must be humble-minded in order to be sympathetic, loving, & compassionate.
- Our like-mindedness does not mean that we are all “assimilated” into “one mind”, but rather that we agree on the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith and share a common bond of devotion to Christ.
- The application of like-mindedness is...
 - In the essentials – harmony.
 - In the non-essentials – latitude.
- As God manifests His love in us, we will begin to exhibit sacrificial (ἀγάπη) love toward everyone as well as brotherly (φιλάδελφος) love toward other believers.
- True compassion for others arises from emotions that are responding to this heart attitude of love toward others.
 - If emotions control our lives, we will have no capacity for true compassion.
 - If we have no compassion, then we lack the capacity to love or we stifle our emotions.
- True humility toward God will result in humility toward one another.
 - Humble believers forgive as Christ forgave.
 - Bitterness toward others is an indication of arrogance that cripples the ability to forgive.
 - Humility results in poise and a stability of soul that is unshaken when others treat us wrong.
- Poised, humble believers can endure harm and insult from others without resorting to retaliation and will respond with an attitude of grace and give a blessing instead.
 - Responding harm for harm or insult for insult will result in discipline for everyone involved.
 - Responding in love will result in blessing.
- In addition, if we truly believe that the Lord has promised to bring about justice, then retaliation makes no logical sense [Pr 20:22; Rom 12:17-21; 1 Thess 5:15].
- Facing difficult circumstances and conditions is not an excuse to fail to show the proper heart attitude of love [1 Cor 4:11-13].
- We should have our eyes properly focused on the things which are eternal and unseen [2 Cor 4:18], but we should also delight in this life and desire many years of spiritual abundance [John 10:10].

- An unbridled tongue destroys the capacity for the abundant life [Pr 21:23; Jas 3:5-6].
- We should pray for God's help to control our tongue [Psalm 141:3].
- Our speech should always be filled with grace and effective in building one another up [Col 4:6; Eph 4:29].
- Deceitful speech comes from a deceitful heart [Matt 12:34; Luke 6:45].
- If we love the Lord, we should abhor evil [Ps 97:10; Pr 8:13; Amos 5:15; Rom 12:9] and abstain from it [1 Th 5:22; 2 Tim 2:20].
- This is the heart attitude of a believer who has gone beyond simply trying to live *in* the will of God and has begun to live *for* the will of God, making it his purpose in life.
- Our motivation to "do good" should be our gratefulness for the favor (grace) that God has already poured out on us, not a vain attempt to gain His approval.
- The "good" that we do in the power of the flesh does not measure up to God's perfect standard of righteousness [Isa 64:6].
- To accomplish God's will and "do good" that glorifies Him, we need to rely upon His power and strength [Isa 40:26-31].
- This power and strength comes from God the Holy Spirit [Jdg 14:6, 19; 15:6] who indwells every born-again believer today [Rom 5:5; 8:9; 2 Cor 5:5].
- We avail ourselves of this supernatural power and strength through the filling of the Holy Spirit [Eph 5:18] which we receive when we do not quench [1 Th 5:19] or grieve [Eph 4:30] Him through pride/sin.
- Carnal believers need to confess their sins [1 Jn 1:9] to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- As believers we already have peace with God [Rom 5:1], but should seek peace with other people [Rom 12:18] even to the point of pursuing it [Rom 14:19; Heb 12:14].
- God sees everything we do [Job 34:21; Heb 4:13] and strengthens those who walk in experiential righteousness [2 Chron 16:9].
- God listens to and delights in the prayers of those who are walking in righteousness [Pr 15:8, 29] and thereby pray according to His will [1 John 5:14].

- In contrast, when we walk in sin and seek after the pleasures of the flesh, God does not hear our prayers [Ps 66:18; Jas 4:3].
- So, we conclude that have been called to proper behavior and must choose...
 - To walk in humility, in fellowship with God, operating with His wisdom, power and strength, building up eternal rewards.
 - Or to walk in arrogance, relying upon our own intellect and the power of the flesh, resulting in discipline and loss of rewards.

Principles of 1 Peter 3:13-17

- If we desire to live godly in Christ Jesus (walk in the Light), we will be persecuted in some form at some point [2 Tim 3:12].
- This persecution will not necessarily cause us to suffer (see 2 Tim 3:12), but those doing the persecuting will try to damage our witness thru harassment and slander.
- If we live a life that is devoted to doing God's will, then no one will be able to destroy our testimony even though they might try to cut us down with their words.
- This does not mean that we are exempt from difficulties, but that God will protect the witness of a true disciple of Christ.
- In the event that, in God's permissive will, He does allow us to endure suffering for the sake of righteousness, we should remain joyful [Matt 5:10-12] knowing that suffering is included in the "all things" that work together for good [Rom 8:28].
- This inner happiness, which is based on the peace and stability that results from the renewing of the mind [Rom 12:2] as God's word performs its work in those who believe [1 Thess 2:13], will stave off the fear that the persecutors are trying to produce through their fear tactics.
- Since we are not shaken, we can respond to those who persecute us in the sphere of ἀγάπη love [Luke 6:27-28].
- When people observe a believer's strength and joy in the midst of such persecution, questions may arise which will lead to an open door for evangelism.
- Through diligent study and preparation, we must always be ready to spring into action when such an opportunity arises.
- Whenever God blesses us with an opportunity to give the gospel, we should always do so with humility, respect and consideration.
- By responding in love and maintaining a clear conscience during these times of persecution, we are God's fellow workers in bringing humiliation to our accusers which might lead to repentance [v. 2:12].
- We allow our witness to be destroyed if we get defensive, angry, vindictive, etc.

- Nobody wants to suffer, but it serves a purpose in God's plan and in the believer's life when God permits us to suffer for doing what is right.
- Such suffering is actually a blessing, allowing us to share in the sufferings of Christ [2 Cor 1:5; Phil 3:10; 1 Pet 4:13].

Principles of 1 Peter 3:18-22

- While we may face undeserved suffering in our walk, only Jesus Christ was qualified to suffer (and die) to take away our sins.
- Jesus Christ was qualified because He was righteous (sinless) in respect to both the lost Adamic estate and personal sins.
- To make salvation possible for unrighteous humanity, God the Father laid the sins of the world on His Son, the Righteous One.
- This sacrifice of Christ on the cross was not only necessary for our salvation – it was also completely sufficient [John 19:30].
- The reason Christ came down from heaven and suffered on the cross was to bring lost souls into a relationship with His Father.
- In order to be our sacrifice (and mediator), Jesus Christ had to dwell in the flesh and His humanity had to suffer and die for us.
- After suffering the penalty of our sins, Jesus was resurrected from the grave by God the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- During the time of His entombment, Christ went down to the abyss and made a bold announcement to the fallen angels.
- These fallen angels had abandoned their proper abode during Noah's time and had procreated with human women [Gen 6].
- This was part of a failed attempt to thwart the seed of the woman promise [Gen 3:15] by polluting the Adamic race.
- These fallen angels, being locked up in a prison, received updates on “current events” only when another fallen angel was condemned to the abyss [Ge 6:4].
- Jesus announced to them that their plan had failed – the Christ had come.
- Jesus also likely announced to them that they would not be released until the final judgment of the great day [Jude 6].
- During the Great Flood, God destroyed all of the existing offspring of these fallen angels (Nephalim) and most of mankind.
- The waters of the Great Flood saved Noah and his family by purging the world of its rampant unrighteousness and protecting them from the geological upheavals taking place on the surface of the earth [Psalm 104:5-10].
- Their experiential salvation thru the water is a type of our own experiential salvation thru the resurrection of Christ.

- This “salvation” comes about because His resurrection gives the believer confident expectation in God’s promises [1 Pet 1:3].
- Water baptism is a ritual in which the believer is symbolically identified with Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.
- In no way is this ritual intended to remove uncleanness from the flesh, either physically or spiritually.
- Instead, water baptism proclaims the believer’s desire (request) to live his life with a clear conscience toward God.
- This clear conscience (even in the midst of persecution) enables us to maintain a powerful witness for Christ [1 Pet 3:16].
- Important: water baptism is meaningless unless the true baptism (the Baptism of the Spirit) has taken place through faith in Jesus Christ at gospel hearing.
- After His resurrection, the humanity of Jesus Christ ascended into heaven.
- In His ascension, Christ was exalted above all authorities and powers, both human and angelic.
- Just as Christ now stands in the presence of the Father, all who believe in Him are assured to one day be in His presence.
- Knowing that we will ascend into heaven and be exalted with Christ, believers should be able to face temporal suffering and persecution with poise, confidence, joy and peace, maintaining that clear conscience “requested” in our baptism.

Principles of 1 Peter 4:1-3

- If we love Jesus Christ and understand that He had to suffer (and die) in order to take away our sins, we should hate sin.
- Unlike Jesus Christ, believers can suffer discipline for sins which should not be confused with undeserved suffering.
- Both discipline and undeserved suffering are designed for our blessing.
 - Discipline is not punitive (Jesus Christ already suffered the punishment for sin), but is designed to restore us to fellowship.
 - God will lovingly deliver the right amount of discipline to bring about our repentance.
 - While we may continue to experience the consequences of our sin even after we repent and confess, we receive blessing because we are able to deal with those consequences in the power of the Holy Spirit, laying up treasure in heaven.
 - Undeserved suffering is also a source of blessing because God uses suffering to help us grow spiritually in ways we never could otherwise and as a witness to believers and unbelievers in our lives.
- In order to be properly prepared for our Christian walk, we must “arm” ourselves with the same mindset Jesus Christ had when He obediently went to the cross, knowing that He would suffer.
- Every spiritual test we pass increases our capacity to be “armed” with this mindset.
- Though such testing produces growth and increased capacity, it is the Word of God dwelling richly in our souls that forms the basis for our Christ-like mindset.
- If the Word of God does not change the way you think about things, then it is not dwelling richly in your soul.
- This change of thinking includes a heart attitude of humility which accepts the race that has been set before you, even if that race includes undeserved suffering.
- When the Word of God truly changes the way you think, it will produce a change in the way you speak and act as well.
- The moment we placed our faith in Jesus Christ, our sin nature became powerless (effectively) and we were set free from the bondage of sin [Rom 6:6-7].

- However, unless we deal decisively with sin, the OSN will continue to rule over us as we voluntarily submit to our lusts.
- Believers who allow sin to rule over them have suffered defeat in the Christian life and are presenting themselves as a dead, defiled offering before the Lord rather than as a living, holy sacrifice [Rom 12:1].
- As long as you are still breathing, it is not too late to live victoriously over sin.
- This victorious life does not come about through human effort – it is possible only when a believer decides to claim the victory over sin that has already been achieved by Christ, relying on God’s strength to resist the lusts of the flesh.
- This decision must be renewed daily.
- The victorious Christian life is more than victory over sin – it also involves living for God’s will in every aspect of our lives.
- Bible study does not always result in the renewing of the mind – when our minds are renewed, we “prove” what the will of God is by living according to it [Ro 12:2].
- Learning the Word of God is necessary for the renewing of the mind, but unless it is united with faith and the humility to submit to God’s will for your life, Bible study results in surface knowledge only.
- Renewal comes when we humbly accept what the Word teaches us [Jas 1:21-24].
- We have all wasted more than enough time in our lives acting like unbelievers, living for our own selfish interests...
 - Without any restraint or self-control.
 - Giving in to our lust patterns.
 - Partying to the point of excess.
 - Bowing down to the idols of our lives.
- God has called (invited) us to walk in a whole new way [Eph 4:1; 1 Thess 2:12].
- Given the shortness of our life on this earth [Jas 4:14], it is irrational for us to continue to waste our time on selfish pursuits – we should pursue the things of God [Prov 12:11; Rom 14:19; 1 Tim 6:11].

Principles of 1 Peter 4:4-6

- When the word of God transforms us and we begin to change our behavior, the people we used to hang out with will not understand why we no longer participate in their sinful pursuits.
- Their initial state of surprise will eventually turn into criticism and even maligning.
- Members of a “mutual admiration society” justify their sinful behavior by heaping words of approval upon one another.
- When someone departs from such a group and turns away from the sinful behavior, it is seen as an affront by the group because it calls into question what they are doing.
- As we mature in our faith we can become immune to this type of criticism, but for brand new believers this can be difficult.
- Thankfully, the word of God provides believers of all levels of spiritual maturity the correct perspective to handle being maligned [Matt 5:11-12; 1 Pet 4:14-16].
- This passage provides proper perspective by reminding us that everyone will be accountable to God for their deeds [1 Cor 3:10-15; Rev 20:11-12], even though the maligners might deny any accountability.
- Salvation, however, is not a matter of deeds or sins, but rather faith in Christ.
- Therefore, instead of fretting over being maligned by those who rush to engage in decadence, we should preach the gospel to them so that they might obey God’s will [2 Pet 3:9], believe in Jesus Christ [John 3:16], possess eternal life [John 3:36] and be made alive in the spirit [Eph 2:4-9].
- If they respond to the gospel and believe in Jesus Christ, they might encounter the same kind of criticism that we face.
- However, being judged according to the standards of the world while on earth is minor when compared to spending all of eternity in glory [2 Cor 4:17; Rom 8:18].

Principles of 1 Peter 4:7-9

- Given the imminence of the Rapture and the apostasy that is rampant in these end times, we should have a sense of urgency in our prayer lives.
- Our prayers should be offered up with a clear mind, focused on the task at hand.
- This clarity of thought must be present regardless of our circumstances.
- An effective prayer life requires self-control and alertness [Col 4:2], more than ever in difficult times [Matt 26:41].
- This kind of clear thinking and self-control is not the result of mental exercises or self-will; it comes about as we grow spiritually and our minds are renewed day-by-day [Rom 12:2].
- The most important asset for a believer today in regard to all aspects of his spiritual walk (including his prayer life) is sacrificial love [1 Cor 13:13; Gal 5:6; Col 3:14; 1 John 2:10-11].
- This love is taught to us by God [1 Thess 4:9] and should be fervent [1 Pet 1:22] and continual [Heb 13:1].
- This love is not a passive “don’t care” kind of approach, but is an active love directed toward our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- This love is not a sentimental, emotional type of love – it is compassion for others (even those who are not very lovable) based on our spiritual character.
- This love for others reveals itself in a grace attitude toward the sin issues that other people struggle with.
- Rather than telling others about so-and-so who did such-and-such, this grace attitude motivates us to “conceal” the sins of others by not spreading gossip.
- This does not mean that we condone their sins or do anything to facilitate their sinful behavior, but it does mean that we avoid mentioning people’s sin problems when we talk to others.
- This allows us to build up others as we show them hospitality with no concern about malicious gossip spreading.

Principles of 1 Peter 4:10-11

- A spiritual gift (χάρισμα, charisma) is a “grace thing” given by God.
- Every believer in the Church receives at least one spiritual gift [1 Pet 4:10].
- The distribution of spiritual gifts is a ministry of the Spirit which occurs at the moment of salvation [1 Cor 12:11-13].
- We receive the gifts by grace [1 Cor 4:7]; likewise, we employ the gifts by grace.
- All spiritual gifts must be employed in the sphere of love [1 Cor 13:1-3].
- God’s purpose in giving spiritual gifts to believers is to provide for the edification of the Church [1 Cor 14:12].
- As good stewards of the grace gifts given by God, we should not neglect the spiritual gifts within us [1 Tim 4:14].
- Neglecting a gift shows disrespect for the One who gave the gift, so we should examine ourselves and “kindle afresh” the gifts we have been given [2 Tim 1:6].
- Spiritual gifts are divided into two main categories – speaking and non-speaking gifts [1 Pet 4:11].
- Speaking gifts are more visible, but are not at all superior to non-speaking gifts.
- Behind-the-scenes service is rewarded by Him who sees in secret [Mt 6:4,6,18].
- One who employs a speaking gift should do so with the proper humility, realizing that teaching the things of God invites greater scrutiny [James 3:1].
- At the same time, when the things of God are spoken of properly, they should be spoken with confidence/boldness.
- Whatever gift we have, when the gift is put into service it is effective only when operating in the strength God provides.
- As we grow spiritually, God increases our capacity to utilize His power in every aspect of our lives, including the use of our spiritual gifts [Eph 3:14-21].
- No matter where we are in terms of spiritual growth, if we employ our gifts in the strength God provides, all glory goes to Him for supplying the gifts and the means to bear fruit in using them.
- It is only through Christ that we have access to such fantastic grace blessings.

- All glory and dominion belong to Jesus Christ regardless of what we do, but as born-again believers our very purpose in life is to manifest God's strength and call attention to God's glory, none of which would be possible without the salvation we have through faith in Christ Jesus.

Principles of 1 Peter 4:12-13

- Peter loves the believers he is writing to and makes a point to express that love to them when talking about suffering.
- These believers were already experiencing some fairly intense suffering and they have been surprised whenever it has happened.
- Our Savior suffered more than we will ever suffer, so we should not be surprised at all when suffering comes our way [Jn 15:18].
- In fact, we are blessed to participate in His sufferings and should respond to suffering by rejoicing continually [Jas 1:2, 12].
- The “fire” of undeserved suffering is not intended to destroy us, but rather to refine us [Ps 66:10; Isa 48:10; Mal 3:3].
- Attempts to avoid such suffering will put us out of the will of God and bring us under His hand of discipline.
- However difficult undeserved suffering may be, when we suffer in the will of God it is an “easy yoke” [Matt 11:30] compared to suffering out of the will of God.
- Do not rejoice in the suffering itself, but rejoice knowing that God allowed you to share in Christ’s suffering [Acts 5:40-41].
- When we are in glory our fellowship with Jesus Christ will be unabated, but here in this world God places us in circumstances and conditions (including suffering) that are intended to draw us closer to His Son making our fellowship with Him become more and more intimate [Phil 3:8-10].
- When believers rejoice regardless of their circumstances and conditions, it prepares them for a time of great rejoicing when Christ comes.
- For us this will be at the Rapture, but for Tribulational saints this rejoicing will be at the 2nd Advent of Jesus Christ.

Principles of 1 Peter 4:14

- If we do not hide our faith and, in turn, reflect Christ in the way we live our lives, we will be mocked by unbelievers.
- No believer should be surprised by this, but we should always remember that it is a privilege to be ridiculed for being associated with Christ [Mt 5:11; Jas 5:10].
- Believers throughout history have suffered for their faith [Heb 11:33ff], but today we have become spoiled and Christianity as a whole is weak and pathetic as a result.
- We should never be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord and should be willing to suffer for the gospel [2 Tim 1:8].
- Speaking the name of Jesus Christ evokes contempt from the haters because His name represents all that He is [John 1:12; 14:13-14; 20:31; Acts 4:12; 21:13; Rom 10:13; Phil 2:9-11; Col 3:17].
- When we experience the privilege of being mocked for Christ, we are indeed blessed.
- The Holy Spirit has many titles in Scripture.
 - Spirit of truth [John 16:13; 1 John 4:6]
 - Spirit of life [Rom 8:2]
 - Spirit of Christ [Rom 8:9; 1 Pet 1:11]
 - Spirit of God [Mt 3:16; 12:28; Rom 8:9, 14; 1 Cor 2:11, 14; 3:16; 7:40; Ph 3:3; 1 Jn 4:2]
 - Spirit of adoption [Rom 8:15]
 - Comforter, Helper, etc.
- The title “Spirit of glory and of God” found here highlights that believers are now the temple of God and His Shekinah Glory is in us [Ex 40:34-35; 2 Chr 7:1-3; 1 Cor 6:19].
- The Holy Spirit indwells us the moment we believe in Christ and His very presence in us makes us targets for Satanic opposition.

Principles of 1 Peter 4:15-16

- We highlight the glory of God when we suffer righteously for the name of Christ.
- We cannot suffer righteously when we are walking in darkness by being involved in sins of any kind – from murder to stealing to sticking our nose in other people’s business where it doesn’t belong.
- Every person, whether a believer or an unbeliever, is capable of committing any sin including things we view as heinous.
- As believers, when we start to think that we are no longer capable of committing certain sins, we become vulnerable to a spectacular “fall” [1 Cor 10:12].
- We can also fail as believers by thinking we are doing well in our spiritual walk because we avoid the “major” sins of murder, stealing, adultery, homosexuality, etc., but if we are acting like busybodies we are just as displeasing to God [2 Thess 3:1; 1 Tim 5:13 cp. 1 Thess 4:11].
- Because of the sin nature in our fleshly bodies, we are all capable of doing evil.
- It is only by the grace of God that we are capable of doing things which please God instead of doing only evil continually as we did when we were unbelievers [Gen 6:5; 8:21; Jer 17:9; Eph 2:1-3].
- When we suffer, we can suffer either in the darkness of our sins by walking according to the flesh or as a Christian by walking according to the Spirit.
- The Christian (one who belongs to Christ) should always strive to show his faith to others by doing what is right [Jas 2:18].
- To suffer for our sins is a cause for shame for the believer [1 John 2:28] and sorrow which leads to repentance [2 Cor 7:9-10].
- However, there is no shame in suffering for Christ because this is suffering according to the will of God [1 Pet 4:19] which honors and glorifies Christ.

Principles of 1 Peter 4:17-19

- God “judges” His household (the Church) through discipline for sins.
- Believers will face this type of judgment (krima) by God only during their time on earth because believers have been set free from eternal judgment through their union with Christ [Rom 8:1 cp. Rom 5:16].
- Church age believers will face a judgment for approval (dokimazo) at the Judgment Seat of Christ [1 Cor 3:11-15].
- Being rescued by God’s grace from eternal judgment does not give believers a license to sin [Rom 6:1-2, 15].
- Instead, believers are implored to examine (dokimazo) themselves to determine if they are undefiled by sin [1 Cor 11:28].
- If God deals with His own children through judgment (discipline), then there should be no doubt that He will bring unbelievers under His hand of judgment.
- Unbelievers should be less focused on how God treats them in the present and more concerned about the eternal judgment they are facing [Rev 20:15].
- Their active disobedience to the gospel has left them under the condemnation incurred in the Garden of Eden [Jn 3:18].
- Even though God saves everyone by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and even though He provides everything for believers to live the sanctified life, for some reason believers find it difficult to rely upon grace and not try to work to “save themselves” in their daily walk.
- If believers have difficulty relying upon God’s grace, think about how difficult it is for unbelievers to trust God’s grace provision for salvation [Acts 7:51; 18:6].
- However, when we entrust our souls (ourselves) to God and His grace, we have a powerful witness before men.
- This witness is especially powerful when we are suffering as a result of doing the right thing in the power and wisdom which God supplies [1 Pet 3:14-17].
- Such suffering for doing what is right is in accordance with God’s will and finds favor with Him [1 Pet 2:20].
- Regardless of the temporal circumstances (suffering, prosperity, testing, etc.) God allows us to experience, it should be easy for us to commit our lives into

God's loving hands because He is always faithful to care for us as His children [Mt 6:25-34; 1 Pet 1:3-7; Phil 4:7].

Principles of 1 Peter 5:1-4

- God the Father has designed a hierarchy of leadership in the Church.
 - There may be many elders within a local church, but a single elder (the overseer) is accountable for that local church, being held in the right hand of Christ [Rev 1:20].
 - Jesus Christ is the Head of everyone in the Church, including the overseers (pastors).
- Sadly, God's design is often ignored...
 - Many churches have leadership hierarchies that extend well beyond that which God intended – often beyond the bounds of the local church itself.
 - Conversely, many believers misunderstand passages like 1 Jn 2:27 and reject the idea of spiritual authority [cp. Heb 13:7, 17].
- All legitimate spiritual authority within the Church comes from Jesus Christ, its Head.
- Local church leaders are not dictators, but congregations which attempt to establish democratic rule within the local church have undermined God's hierarchy in the interest of a false sense of "control".
- At the time of the writing of this letter, the apostles still had legitimate authority from God over a number of local churches.
- Peter gives this exhortation to these local church leaders as both an apostle (hence the phrase "witness of the sufferings of Christ") and a fellow elder.
- By using the phrase "witness of the sufferings of Christ" to identify his apostleship, Peter is acknowledging the suffering these elders are experiencing.
- Peter further identifies himself with these elders as a fellow believer sharing in the glory to be revealed when Christ returns.
- Peter exhorts the elders to lead properly...
 - First, keep watch over and care for the flock, tending to their every spiritual need.
 - Second, serve by choice, with eagerness, motivated by the love of God and love for the flock rather than the desire for money.
 - Third, lead the flock by being an example, not by trying to boss everyone around.
- Caring for the flock can involve both toughness and tenderness, but a true shepherd does both of these in love.
- Every believer today has been assigned to the care of an earthly shepherd, but the only way to benefit from this is to recognize him and submit to his care.
- Believers will be able to identify their earthly shepherd by recognizing his voice [John 10:3-5].

- The Lord may assign believers to the care of different earthly shepherds during various periods of their lives, but only one shepherd at a time.
- A pastor who serves his flock in the way Peter describes will earn the respect of the congregation [1 Thess 5:12-13].
- Even though a legitimate shepherd is not motivated by money, the flock will desire to honor him and compensate him as they are able [1 Tim 5:17-18].
- The pastor who follows Peter's direction will not be focused on this earthly compensation knowing that he will receive an eternal, unfading reward when Christ comes again.
- This crown is not earned nor deserved, but given by God in His grace.

Principles of 1 Peter 5:5-7

- After addressing the spiritually mature believers (elders) that lead the churches, Peter now addresses believers who are “younger” in their spiritual walk.
- Peter exhorts these believers to willingly place themselves under the leadership of the elders in the church.
- This humble submission leads to order [1 Cor 14:40] rather than confusion [1 Cor 14:33] within the local church.
- Peter then addresses everyone concerning the need to have an attitude of humility toward one another [Rom 12:10; Eph 5:21; Phil 2:3-4; 1 Pet 3:8].
- Christ taught the same lesson to His disciples in the Upper Room when He girded Himself with a towel and washed their feet [John 13:3-15].
- Human pride stands in opposition to God, whereas God grants favor (grace) to a person with an attitude of true humility.
- In humility, we submit to one another and, more importantly, we submit to God’s infinite power over us and His sovereign plan for our lives [1 Pet 2:13-14, 18; 3:1].
- Jesus provided us an example of humility when He submitted to the Father’s plan for His life [Mk 10:45; Lk 22:42].
- In God’s sovereign rule over our lives He sometimes permits suffering to come our way, but He will exalt us when the time is right [James 4:10] and He has more than enough power to do so [Eph 1:18-23].
- If we attempt to exalt ourselves, God will bring us down [Luke 1:52; 14:11; 18:14].
- The whole world around us tries to instill pride in us, telling us how great we are, awarding us for mediocrity, showing us how much we deserve and making us believe that we are entitled to so much, but the word of God instructs us to “dress ourselves in servant’s clothes”.
- The person “dressed” in humility realizes that everything he has and everything he does that means anything completely and utterly depends upon God.
- Completely depending upon God and submitting to His care is not scary for those who know Him and His character.

- The same Almighty God who created the universe has regard for our struggles and our worry is a source of concern for Him.
- God wants us to cast the entirety of our worry upon Him, not each individual worry and not merely the things we have decided we cannot handle [Mt 6:25-34].
- We do this by humbly laying all our needs before God through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving [Phil 4:6].
- When we cast the entirety of our worry away to God, we enter into the rest which God intends for every believer [Phil 4:7; Jn 14:27; Col 3:15; Heb 4:1-11].
- If our happiness is based upon financial prosperity, success in our jobs, owning nice things, keeping up with the Jones', living a life of ease, achieving personal bests, etc., then we do not have the happiness which God supplies regardless of our circumstances [Phil 4:11-13].

Principles of 1 Peter 5:8-11

- God wants us to be composed in our walk rather than easily upset by the events we encounter in our daily lives.
- Such composure comes from God and will only be possible when we are transformed by learning the Word of God and putting what we have learned into practice.
- We must also be spiritually alert at all times in order to live the victorious life [Ac 20:31; 1 Cor 16:13; Col 4:2; 1 Th 5:4-11].
- This spiritual alertness is important because Satan is constantly looking for an opportunity to trip us up in our walk and he will use whatever means possible.
- We need to realize that Satan is just as real as the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is.
- We may not take Satan seriously, but he is serious about taking us down.
- Satan makes accusations against us in the courtroom of heaven [Rev 12:10] and is stalking us like a lion here on the earth.
- Every Christian lives in a constant state of “war” against the devil and the only way to achieve victory against him is to put on the Armor of God [Eph 6:10-18].
- Carnal believers are casualties of this war who have been “swallowed up” by Satan by attempting to battle him in the flesh.
- Trying to fight against the devil in the power of the flesh makes no sense when we have divinely powerful weapons made available to us by God [2 Cor 10:4].
- If we stand against Satan by using God’s superior power [1 John 4:4], he will flee from us [Jas 4:7].
- Our faith must be unwavering in order to stand up to Satan since he is looking for any sign of weakness to exploit.
- Trials and/or suffering in our daily lives can cause us to waver in our faith and become discouraged/disheartened if we take our eyes off of Christ [Heb 12:1-3].
- However, everything that God puts in our path day-by-day is intended to make our faith more stable [Col 1:21-23; 2:5-7].

- It is through this stability of faith, rooted and grounded in love, that Christ is able to abide in our hearts and the fullness of God's power works in us [Eph 3:14-21].
- It is comforting to know that we are not the only ones targeted by Satan – other believers go through the same testing, temptations and suffering [1 Cor 10:13].
- It is also comforting to know that God is faithful and that His grace is sufficient in every circumstance [2 Cor 12:7-9].
- As we hold fast to all we know about God, we will gain the confidence to ask Him for mercy and grace in time of need, including times of suffering [Heb 4:14-16].
- God has invited us to have fellowship with His Son [1 Cor 1:9] which includes sharing in His sufferings [1 Pet 4:13].
- We are also invited to share in Christ's eternal glory [1 Thess 2:12] which puts our temporary suffering into perspective [2 Cor 4:16-18] and motivates us to stand firm in our faith [2 Thess 2:14-15].
- This faith comes through hearing and hearing by the word of Christ [Ro 10:17].
- God's word equips us by strengthening our faith [2 Tim 3:16-17] working in us what is pleasing in His sight so that we might do His will [Heb 13:20-21].
- This equipping is intended to build us up in our faith, preparing us for our work of service [Eph 4:11-13].
- God is the one who provides us with the stability of faith [Rom 16:25-26] for every good work and word [2 Thess 2:16-17].
- This stability of faith keeps us from being knocked off course in times of affliction [1 Thess 3:2-3] and protects us from the schemes of the evil one [2 Thess 3:3].
- This stability of faith is accompanied by spiritual strength and stamina [Col 1:11] which enables us to handle whatever God asks of us [Phil 4:13; 2 Tim 4:17].
- Regardless of how weak we may be on our own, when we rely upon God we receive His strength [Isa 40:29-31].
- In the process of equipping, stabilizing and strengthening us through the power of His word working in us [1 Thess 2:13], God has placed us upon a

firm spiritual foundation that will keep us from being uprooted by the winds of false teaching [Eph 4:14; Jas 1:6-8; Jude 10-12].

- God's sovereign hand accomplishes all of these things as He guides and directs our lives, so we should proclaim our "Amen" that He is worthy of glory and dominion forever [Rom 11:36; 16:27; Eph 3:21; Phil 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; Jude 24-25; Rev 1:6; 7:12].

Principles of 1 Peter 5:12-14

- When Peter mentions Silvanus he does not praise him the way the world would (intelligent, handsome, eloquent, etc.) – he commends him for being faithful.
- God honors faithful men by putting them into service [1 Tim 1:12] – examples are Timothy [1 Cor 4:17], Tychicus [Eph 6:21], Onesimus [Col 4:9] and Epaphrus [Col 1:7].
- Silvanus penned the letter for Peter, but these final three verses are more than likely a postscript penned by Peter himself.
- The purpose of this (brief) letter was to encourage/implore/exhort the believers in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) and attest to what is the true grace of God, but this letter continues to bless believers today.
- God’s grace sometimes involves temporal blessings for believers, but the true essence of His grace is sustaining believers spiritually, even when under persecution.
- There are many false concepts of grace.
 - Grace = freedom from trials/suffering
 - Grace = a license to sin [Jude 4]
 - Grace = temporal blessing
- While God’s grace has an affect on everyone (Common Grace [Matt 5:45]) and every believer has tasted of His grace [Eph 2:8-9; Heb 6:4-5], it is the humble believer who is under “multiplied” grace [1 Pet 5:5; 2 Pet 1:2].
- A chief operating principle in the Christian life is grace [Acts 13:43; Heb 12:15].
- As we mature in our faith we will gain in knowledge [Phil 3:8; 2 Pet 1:2-8; 2:20], but growing in both the grace [2 Pet 3:18] and the love of Christ [Rom 13:8; 1 Cor 13:1-3; 2 Cor 5:14; Gal 5:6; Eph 3:17-19; 5:1-2; 2 Thess 3:5; Jude 21] is far more important.
- It is by faith that we stand firm in God’s grace [Rom 5:1-2; 11:20; 2 Cor 1:24].
- We should never stop witnessing to others about God’s grace, even though we might endure suffering/affliction [Acts 20:22-24].

- As believers who are blessed to be part of the Church, we should always make an effort to recognize one another as fellow members of the body of Christ [Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:27; Eph 4:12; Col 1:18, 24; 2:19].
- Lessons from the life of John Mark, Peter’s spiritual “son” (see handout).
 - God answers prayers, sometimes even when we are doubtful that He can.
 - God does the work, but He uses people who are willing to do the legwork.
 - To have true success in any ministry, God must call us into that ministry.
 - Even if we fail at first in trying to serve God, He gives us grace to continue.
 - God gives us second chances in ministry, so seize the opportunity and finish well.
- Peace, hope, love, faith – all of these are markers of those who prosper spiritually, regardless of our temporal circumstances.