

# GET YOUR MIND READY

## 1 PETER 01:13-16

### *Introduction*

This passage begins the longest section of First Peter. Remember: the believers were suffering terrible persecution. They had lost their homes, property, money, possessions and friends. They had been forced to flee for their lives, perhaps carrying only what they could by hand. They were being persecuted because of Christ. They were living for Christ and proclaiming the salvation and hope of eternal life in Him. People were willing to hear about salvation, hope, and eternal life in Christ; but they did not want to hear about repentance, that they had to repent in order to be saved and to receive eternal life. They were just like people of all ages: they did not want to hear about righteousness and godliness, about a Lord to whom they had to give *all they were and had*. Therefore, the people turned against the believers. The believers had fled into other countries trying to escape the fury of the persecution. They were naturally disappointed and experiencing the dread of fear. They needed to be encouraged and strengthened to continue on for Christ. But what was the best way for Peter to do this? What could be said to encourage a people who had lost everything and were having to flee for their lives?

There was only one message that could encourage and strengthen them: the glorious message of the gospel of salvation. They needed to keep their eyes upon the grace and salvation of God. This is what Peter had preached. Up until now he had proclaimed the wonder and greatness of salvation. Now something else was needed. When we are facing the trials and temptations of life, it is not enough to keep our eyes upon salvation. We must also act; we must do some things. When we undergo the trials of life, whether persecution and suffering or temptation and sin, we must act. We must dedicate our lives to God, and we must get our minds ready.

We must concentrate upon some things. We must focus and zero in on three things in particular.

- I. Focus upon the coming grace and salvation of God (v. 13).
- II. Focus upon obedience (v. 14).
- III. Focus upon holiness (vv. 15-16).

### **I. *1 Peter 01:13 Grace and Salvation of God***

Focus upon the coming grace, the salvation of God. Remember: grace is the favour of God showered upon us. We do not deserve His favour, for we have not believed God, not perfectly. We have disobeyed, transgressed, cursed, neglected, ignored and rebelled against God. Nevertheless God has favoured us. He loves us; therefore He has provided a way for us to be saved. He has sent His Son into the world to take all of our transgressions upon Himself and to bear the judgment for us. This is what is meant when Scripture says that *Jesus Christ died for us*. He took the guilt of our transgressions against God upon Himself, and He bore the judgment and punishment for us. This is God's grace to us, the great favour and blessing which He has bestowed upon us, even our salvation. We can now be saved from sin and from death; we can now live with God eternally. But note a critical fact: we are not in heaven with God yet. We are not saved from the presence of sin and death yet. We are still living in this world and in the presence of evil and corruption. We shall be delivered some day; we shall be perfected and never know sin and death. But we are not there yet. However the day is coming, the day that is known as the glorious day of redemption or the glorious day of our salvation. The glorious day is coming, the day when Jesus Christ shall burst open the heavens above and return to earth to save and perfect us eternally. Therefore pursue that day; pursue the grace, the glorious salvation of God that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Go after God's grace —

diligently go after it. Make sure, absolutely sure, that you do not miss God's grace. Pursue God's grace and salvation by doing three things.

1. Prepare your minds for action. This means to gather up all loose thoughts; to gird up your mind and thoughts; to concentrate and focus your attention upon your coming salvation. During Peter's day men wore robes, and they wore a belt around their waist. When they were set on some strenuous action, they gathered up their robe and tightened it under the belt so that the robe would not flop around and hinder their work. The believer is to gather up and prepare the thoughts of his mind, gather up all the loose thoughts and focus and concentrate upon the grace and salvation of God. He is to strain to control every thought, to focus upon...

- "whatever is *true*"
- "whatever is *noble*"
- "whatever is *right*"
- "whatever is *pure*"
- "whatever is *lovely*"
- "whatever is *admirable*"
- "if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things" (Ph. 4:8).

Note how clearly and simply Scripture states this: we are not to allow our thoughts to roam about and harbour thoughts of lust and worldliness. We are to focus our thoughts upon things that are excellent or praiseworthy. We are not to allow thoughts that tear down our moral and godly fibre.

Scripture is even more clear and forceful in another passage:

**2 Cor 10:3-5** *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

The very warfare of the believer is spiritual and mental. Therefore, the believer must...

- demolish arguments or imaginations.
- demolish every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.
- take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Imagine — *every thought* is to be captivated for Christ. "Believers, prepare your minds for action. Gather up *all the thoughts* of your mind and focus upon the grace and salvation of God."

**Rom 8:5-6** *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires: but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

**Rom 12:1-2** *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.*

**1 Cor 2:16** *"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

**2 Cor 10:3-5** *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

**Eph 4:23-24** *To be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Phil 2:5** *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

**Phil 4:8** *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.*

**Col 3:10** *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

**Isa 26:3** *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*

2. Be “self-controlled” (nephontes). Self-controlled means two things:

=> Not to become intoxicated with drugs or alcohol of any kind.

=> To be self-controlled in mind and behaviour; to be controlled in all things; not to be given over to indulgence, license or extravagance. It is the opposite of indulgence, of indulging in anything such as eating, drinking, recreation or whatever. It means to live a self-controlled and solid life.

The believer is to be self-controlled as he pursues the coming grace and salvation of God. He is not to indulge and gratify his flesh (sinful nature) in...

- drugs or alcohol
- recreation
- possessions
- authority
- vehicles
- food
- sex
- position
- power
- relaxation
- sleep
- clothing
- recognition
- pornography

The believer is to live a well-balanced life. He is to be self-controlled, solid and steady. He is to keep all things in the proper place. He is to be self-controlled, focused and concentrated upon the grace and salvation of God.

**1 Th 5:6-8** *So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

**1 Tim 3:11** *In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.*

**Titus 2:11-13** *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**1 Pet 1:13** *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.*

**1 Pet 4:7** *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

3. Set your hope fully on the grace and salvation of God. Our hope must be kept alive. There is a *dead hope* and a *lifeless hope*. A *dead hope* is the hope that so many people have, the hope that they will be acceptable to God when they die. But they seldom think about the fact; they just let their hope lie dormant in their mind. It is the hope, the feeling that

most people have, the feeling that God would never reject them, not in the final analysis. Whatever life there is that follows death — they are not sure what it will be like — they feel they will be okay and acceptable. They are not *perfect*, but they are not unacceptable to God. This is a *dead hope*, an occasional thought that they will be okay in whatever life follows death.

Note the exhortation of Scripture: set your hope fully on the grace and salvation of God. Begin to hope now and keep on hoping to the very end. This is a living hope, the hope demanded by Scripture. Pursue, seek and go after the grace and salvation of God. Hope for it and keep on hoping for it. Hope until the revelation of Jesus Christ. He is going to rent the clouds above and return to earth and save us from the sin and death and the evil and corruption of this world. Therefore, hope and keep on hoping, pursue and keep on pursuing, for the coming grace and salvation of God.

**Rom 8:24** *For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?*

**Col 1:5** *The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel.*

**Titus 2:11-13** *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**Heb 6:18-20** *God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an*

*anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*

**1 Pet 1:3-4** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.*

**1 John 3:1-3** *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*

## II. 1 Peter 01:14 Obedience

Focus upon obedience. There is sharp contrast in this verse. Note exactly what it says.

**1 Pet 1:14** *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.*

The phrase “obedient children” means *children of obedience*. That is, believers are to be so obedient to God that obedience becomes the basic trait of their lives. Obedience is to be so characteristic of our lives that we can be called *children of obedience*. However, in contrast to being *children of obedience* is the phrase “conform[ing] to the evil desires you had.” As stated this is a sharp contrast. It pictures us as *children of evil desires*. That is, we used to be so given over to our own desires, to doing our own thing, that we could be called *children of evil desires*.

This is not a pretty picture, but it is exactly what a person without Christ is: a *child of desire*, a person who lives just like he wants to live. He does what he wants to do instead of what God says to do. He obeys himself, his own desires, not God and His Word. Therefore, he is a child of desires, a *child of evil desires*. What kind of lusts or desires are being talked about? All kinds. There are the lusts and desires for...

- money
- housing
- authority
- clothing
- recognition
- popularity
- position
- food
- sex
- property
- possessions

Man must have the necessities of life. God made him to desire these things. But when we begin to desire and lust and crave these things it becomes wrong. Our focus and concentration in life becomes the lust of these things, getting more and more of them and gratifying our flesh [sinful nature]. The lust of the flesh [sinful nature] and of the eyes will enslave and consume us. This is a fact of human nature that is too often ignored and neglected. Note why: because of man's ignorance.

Man is ignorant of God. Man does not know God, not personally, not in a close relationship that fellowships and communes with God day by day. When man thinks of God, he thinks of some misty Being or Force who is far away in outer space someplace, too far removed for us to relate to Him in a personal way. Therefore, man feels that he is free to do his own thing and to go his own way through life. And before man knows it, lust has gripped his life. Whatever it is that excites him or gives him purpose in this world, that thing enslaves man. The result is either obsession or emptiness. The person is either controlled and dominated by his lust or else left in despair and discouragement because his lust does not satisfy him.

The point is this: God is not far off and removed from man. God has revealed Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, man is to look at Jesus Christ and see God, and he is to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Man is to obey God; he is to obey God so much that he will become a child of obedience. The world and its lusts or evil desires are no longer to control our lives. The Lord Jesus Christ is to dominate our lives. We are to focus and concentrate upon Him and the glorious grace and salvation that He is to bring at His revelation.

*Mat 7:21* "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

*Mat 7:24-27* "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

*Mat 12:50* "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

*John 14:21* "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

*John 14:23* Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

**John 15:10, 14** *“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. You are my friends if you do what I command.”*

**Rev 22:14** *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

**Deu 26:16** *The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.*

### III. 1 Peter 01:15–16 Holiness

Focus upon holiness. Holy (hagios) means to be righteous, pure, sinless and godly; to be perfect, complete and fulfilled in every possible sense; to be separated and entirely different from all other beings and things.

The believer is to be holy, that is...

- righteous, pure, sinless and godly.
- perfect, complete and fulfilled.
- separated, entirely different from all who live worldly.

There are three reasons why believers are to live holy lives.

1. God is holy. He is the very embodiment and perfection of absolute holiness (see *Holy*, 1 Pet. 1:15-16).

=> God is the embodiment of absolute righteousness, purity, sinlessness and godliness.

=> God is the very embodiment of absolute perfection, completeness, and fulfilment.

=> God is the very embodiment of absolute separation — different and set apart and separated from all else.

2. God has called believers to be holy in all of life. God’s very purpose in saving us is to have a people who will be just like Him and who can live with Him eternally. God’s purpose is for us...

- to be holy, righteous, pure, sinless and godly.
- to be perfect, complete and fulfilled.
- to be separated from the world and set apart unto Him.

God does not want us corruptible and dying with the world. God wants us holy; He wants us set apart to be just like Him. God wants us to live with Him eternally. But to live with Him eternally, we must be like Him: we must be holy. Therefore, we must pursue, seek and go after holiness. We must live holy, pure, righteous and godly lives. We must seek and go after God: we must seek to be like God while on this earth. If we do, then God gives us the most glorious of hopes: the hope of eternal salvation.

3. Scripture demands holiness. It is written in Scripture: “Be holy, because I am holy” (Lev. 11:45; 19:2; 20:7, 26). We have no choice: this is the command of Scripture itself. If we wish to be God’s, then we must live like God. We must live lives that are holy.

**Lev 11:45** *I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.*

**Luke 1:74-75** *To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

**2 Cor 7:1** *Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

**1 Pet 1:16** *For it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

**Heb 12:14** *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

**2 Pet 3:11** *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.*

**Psa 99:9** *Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.*

**Isa 6:3** *And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

**Rev 15:4** *"Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." ■*

## 1 PETER 01: 15–16

### HOLY, SAINT, SANCTIFICATION (HAGIOS)

*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."*

**1 Peter 01:15–16**

All three of these words and their various forms (holiness, saints, and sanctification) are translated from one Greek word *hagios*. Its Hebrew equivalent is *kadosh*. It is difficult to translate into English although its meaning is easy to grasp. Its basic meaning is to be separated, set apart and different. Morally, it means pure, sinless, righteous, holy. Something holy is set apart, separated, different from all other persons or things. It is something that God has set aside for Himself. Man cannot set it aside as holy. It has to be set aside by God Himself.

A study of the word *holy* shows the movement of God in history.

1. God is said to be pre-eminently and supremely holy (Lk. 1:49; Jn. 17:11; 1 Pet. 1:15). He possesses an incomparable majesty, so supremely majestic that there are beings who do nothing but surround His throne day and night singing out the praises of His holiness (Isa. 6: 1f; Rev. 4:8).
  2. Things that have a special connection to God are said to be holy. The ground upon which Moses stood when God confronted him was said to be holy (Exo. 3:1-5; Acts 7:33). The temple was said to be holy (Mt. 24:15), and the Most Holy Place in particular was holy (Heb. 9:2-3). The mount where Christ was transfigured was called holy (2 Pet. 1:18). The covenant that God made with Abraham was holy (Lk. 1:67-79). The gospel and Scriptures are called holy (Mt. 7:6; Rom. 1:2). Anything that becomes associated with God is set apart unto God in a very special sense and becomes different from other things.
  3. The Jews are called a *holy nation* (Exo. 19:6). They were set apart in a very special way to God. The Old Testament deals primarily with the Jews and their special relationship to God: "You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." (Lev. 20:26; cp. Dan. 7:18, 22).
- => The Jewish people were *holy* in that they were to be different from other nations, different in that they were to believe God and serve Him faithfully. God knew them in a very special way above all the nations of the earth (See *Israel, God's Special People*, Jn. 4:22; and *Jews, the Seed of Abraham*, Rom. 4:1-25).

=> The Jewish priesthood was *holy*, different from other men (Lev. 21:6). The people's tithe or tenth was *holy*, different from other money and goods and used for different purposes (Lev. 27:30, 32). The temple was *holy*, different from other buildings (Exo. 26:33).

But note this: the Jews refused to play the part in history that God wanted them to play. The Old Testament is a continuous record of their rejection of God's will. And when God sent His Son into the world, they committed the supreme and lasting rejection. They refused to acknowledge Him and put Him to death.

4. Jesus Christ is said to be holy in a very special way.

=> Before His birth, the angel said to Mary, "The holy One to be born will be called the Son of God" (Lk. 1:35).

=> Mary worshipped Him in song and praise before His birth saying, "Holy is His name" (Lk. 1:49f). He was the only begotten Son of God, *holy*, revered and worthy of veneration and worship.

=> The people recognized that He was *sanctified* by God (Jn. 10:36; cp. 6:69).

=> The mentally ill and demon-possessed recognized Him as the Holy One of God (Mk. 1:24; Lk. 4:34).

=> The church worshipped Him as "the Holy Child of God" (Acts 4:27, 30).

Note this: Jesus Christ Himself was the transition from God's dealing with the Jewish nation as holy to a new people as holy. When the Jews rejected God's Son, they showed their ultimate refusal to follow God, to be holy and separated unto Him.

Therefore, God had no choice but to raise up another people to be separated unto Him. The new people are those of all nations and peoples who believe and follow Christ as the Lord of their lives.

5. The church is now said to be the holy people of God. The privileges and responsibilities of following God were taken from Israel and given to the church (Jn. 17:14, 16; Rom. 11:16f).

=> The church is called *a holy nation* and *a royal or holy priesthood*, a people made up of genuine believers from all nationalities and languages and races (1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

=> The church is a people who set themselves apart unto God as holy and separated and different, who utterly trust Him and abandon themselves to follow Him.

=> The church is now the dwelling place for God's presence. Believers are being built "to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit" (Eph. 2:21-22). The church in some unique and spiritual sense, by an act of God, becomes the very body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). The church, the body of believers when meeting together locally, now replaces the temple of the Old Testament (1 Cor. 3:16).

6. But there is something even more precious and hallowed to real believers. The body of the individual believer becomes holy, for the Spirit of God dwells within the believer's body (1 Cor. 6:19-20). The body of the believer becomes the dwelling place for God's very presence, and the body replaces the holy of holies within the inner sanctuary of the temple. Thus, believers are called *saints or holy ones* (Acts 9:13, 32, 26:10; Rom. 1:7.) □