

1 Peter.

Read the chapter. This Epistle was written to “strangers”, those Jews that Peter did not know personally. Again, when we were going through a bankruptcy and a young pastor would come to our house, he would use the Scriptures from this Epistle to comfort us, *Wherein we greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ*** and with the Scriptures from James. How awesome that was and the Scriptures were the only thing that would lift us up from the oppression of the devil and the sadness and grieving and heaviness we were going through; not only losing our farms, our subdivision, our houses, our equipment and apiary, but at the same time our family, from both sides, who did not like us very much. My oldest brother said “Olenka, when you come back to our God, we will take you back.” That was from religion where God said to me, while I was praying to Mary, “*Who died for you?*” I said “You did, Jesus.” To which he replied “*Then why are you worshipping Mary.*” I knew that was idolatry. And pretty well every human being on the face of the earth was wiped off the face of the earth and sent to hell that worshipped an idol, whether he/she were human, an idol that was made of wood, stone, metal or whatever, that people would bow down to other than the Holy One of Israel and His Son, Jesus, the Messiah. No exceptions but repentance!

Everything seemed to be happening at the same time: our oldest son was so desperately ill from allergies, probably from our tobacco smoke, grain from our grain farm, and dust from plowing and combining, and everything else we did on the farm. Then a lawyer who wanted to buy our subdivision could not come up with the money; by then we had moved and purchased 1600 acres of land on that basis and the lawyer said “sue me” but Jesus said “No”; our banker did not accept an offer to buy the properties from a consortium from Germany which would have given us a profit; army worm invasion around us but not on our property; hail in the middle of the night passed by; and everything else just dried up even spruce trees that had been planted were drying up in probably 85 degrees but it was an inferno; Our neighbour's cattle were loose on our flax and rye fields which put a strain between neighbours.

That was for **salvation**. Yes, that was from chapter 1: 8 *Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see Him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith even the **salvation of your souls**. Of which salvation the **PROPHETS** have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the **GRACE** that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the **sufferings of Christ**, and the glory that should follow.*

Verse 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever.*

There was more to come: the baptism in water which is literally dying to self and coming up in resurrection with the past left behind totally buried in Christ; the baptism of the Holy Spirit where he pours in the gifts of the Spirit and then the workshop of the Holy Spirit to work out the gifts of Him. All of it with sufferings. Polishing one another like grinding gemstones, until we are like Jesus.

1 Peter 2.

Read the chapter. Sometimes, there is a silence between the Holy Spirit working out special gifts in you, say, and the silence until He performs them. Sometimes years will go by. He is like a Maestro, directing an orchestra; the baton is still going but you are waiting until the next note of an instrument is played. Then He directs you again.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. Then you will get meat to eat. You are lively stones building up a spiritual house in the hands of the Holy Spirit. The chief cornerstone is Jesus, precious. We believe in Him and are not confounded. But He has been a stumbling, and a rock of offence, to the religious in Zion; who must repent. But, God has made Jew and Gentile, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Peter warns us in this chapter to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul; have honest conversation among the Gentiles (because they will accept the Messiah by the millions) who will see your good works which will glorify God.

We are to submit ourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers (do you know about Idi Amin?) and for the praise of them that do well... *as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the King. Servants be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*

Peter talks about suffering wrongfully. *For what glory is it, if, when you be buffeted for your faults, you shall take it patiently? But if, when you do well, and **suffer** for it, you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.* Jesus suffered for us to give us an example of suffering and agony for us, not for Himself. We are to follow that example. He had no guile, when He was reviled, He did not revile back, when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judges righteously.

Healing:

Who His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed.

1 Peter 3.

Read the chapter. *Likewise, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; One thing about Jesus, He set the women free. He did not want outer exhibition *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.**

But Jesus puts greater emphasis to protection of women to men: *Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

*Finally, be all of you of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; ...you should inherit a blessing...do good; seek peace and ensue it; **for the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.***

But if you **suffer** for righteousness sake, happy are you: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. You can give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: ...that accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that you **suffer** for well-doing, than for evil doing. Jesus, who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God, also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

