

# Peter – A Survival Guide for the Believer – Help Sheet #6

## 1) First Things

- A thought-provoking devotion
- The “Big Doctrines” we passed over!

## 2) 1 Peter 4:1-6

*Therefore, because Christ suffered in flesh, arm yourselves with the same mindset, because the one who has suffered in flesh is done with sin. <sup>2</sup>Do this so that you no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human desires but for God’s will. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, you have already spent enough time in the past doing what the Gentiles want to do: living in unbridled immorality, lusts, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and disgusting idolatry. <sup>4</sup>For this reason, they are surprised that you do not plunge into the same overflowing river of filth with them, and they slander you. <sup>5</sup>They will have to give an account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup>In fact, it was for this reason that the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, so that they might be judged the way people are judged in flesh and that they might live the way God lives in spirit.*

- Therefore (again)
- Be done and be different.
- Unbelief doesn’t get it. Can’t. Won’t. Never will. So, keep “surprising” them.
- The time will come when ALL will get “it!” That’s why the gospel is for NOW and for ALL.

### *More from the EHV Study Bible:*

4:6 The term those who are dead refers to believers who had previously heard the gospel but now were physically dead. That is the way the term dead was used in the previous verse.

4:6 In 3:18, Peter used the terms in flesh and in spirit to say that during Jesus’ ministry people ordinarily saw a humble human body that concealed Jesus’ glory (he was in flesh), but now Jesus displays an exalted, glorious body in which his deity shines through (he is in spirit; see Philippians 2:6-11). Here, the same terms, in flesh and in spirit are applied to the believer’s passage from a humble state to an exalted state.

In 1 Corinthians 15:44-45 Paul says that now we have a natural body, but when we are raised, our body will be a spiritual body that will be like Jesus’ glorious body (Philippians 3:21). The term spiritual does not describe the material of the body but its exalted status.

## 3) 1 Peter 4:6-9 *Love for Others in the End Times*

*<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near. So have sound judgment and be self-controlled for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup>Above all, love each other constantly, because love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Be hospitable to one another without complaining.*

- Define “End Times.”
- Define “near.”
- Add these to the “Survivor Kit.”
- There’s that “for the sake of your prayers” idea again.

## 4) 1 Peter 4:9-11 *Gifts Meant for Service*

***<sup>10</sup>Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God's grace. <sup>11</sup>If anyone speaks, let him do it as one speaking the messages of God. If anyone serves, let him do it as one serving with the strength God supplies so that God may be glorified in every way through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.***

- Quick review of another great and important Bible doctrine – Spiritual Gifts. (I Corinthians and Romans 11, Ephesians 4)

***More from the EHV Study Bible:***

Verse 10 - *Grace* is God's undeserved kindness. The term is used of God giving us the free gift of salvation by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), of God giving us the free gift of heaven (Ephesians 2:7; 1 Peter 1:13), and of God giving various kinds of spiritual gifts to individual Christians (Ephesians 4:7-8). The latter is its use here, as the following verses indicate.

- A spontaneous apostolic “doxology.”

**5) 1 Peter 4:11-19 *Sharing in the Sufferings of Christ***

***<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name. <sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, where will the ungodly sinner end up? <sup>19</sup>So let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to their faithful Creator while doing what is good.***

- Suffering – the norm or the exception?
- More of what we sometimes don't like to hear.

***More from the EHV Study Bible:***

4: 17 - The suffering that believers go through is like a preview of the final judgment because it shows that they are Christ's people. But if even believers suffer like this now, imagine how bad the suffering will be for unbelievers at the final judgment!

4:18 - This verse apparently alludes to Proverbs 11:31, “If a righteous person is paid back on earth, how much more a wicked person or a sinner!” The road to heaven is narrow, and the way that leads to life is difficult (Matthew 7:14). If the road to heaven is difficult for believers, consider how much worse it will be for unbelievers in the end! This is a warning for someone who is thinking that leaving the faith to escape persecution is taking the easy way out.