

1 Peter Lesson #16, Chapter 4:7-11

Keep leaning on the Lord for His help as you study His Word.

1. Peter ended 4:1-6 with the admonition to live for the will of God. Now he begins to give some practical ways to do this, especially in light of what truth (verse 7)?
2. What does Peter mean by the phrase, *the end of all things is at hand*? See Rom. 13:12; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 10:25; James 5:8; Rev. 22:20.
3. What effect is Christ's soon return to have upon your life according to verse 7?
4. Define *sound judgment* [Strong's #4993 (ESV *self-controlled*; NKJV *serious*; NIV *clear-minded*)]. See also Rom. 12:3 and Titus 2:6, 12.
5. Define *sober spirit* [Strong's #3525 (NIV *self-controlled*)]. See also Eph. 6:18 and Col. 4:2.
6. Jesus taught Peter an important lesson about prayer and now he passes it on to us. What did Peter learn in Matt. 26:38-46? What does Peter want his readers to learn about prayer, especially in light of their current difficulties?

7. How would you describe your prayer life? Is your prayer life like the description in verse 7? What are some ways you have discovered that help you to be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer?
8. What are we to do above all (verse 8)? Why?
9. Define *fervent* [Strong's #1618 (ESV *earnestly*; NIV *deeply*).
10. In what way is love to cover a multitude of sins? See Prov. 10:12; Matt. 18:21-22; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Eph. 4:32.
11. In what way does love not cover over sin? See Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:9-13.
12. Is there someone in your life you need to apply this verse to? Are you keeping fervent in your love for them, forgiving them, praying for them or are you holding grudges, being critical and unthankful? If it is the latter, stop right now and ask the Lord to change your heart so that you can obey this verse with joy. Remember Col. 3:12-13: "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."
13. Keeping in mind the theme of living for God's glory especially in times of persecution and difficulty, what is the next area Peter urges us to do (verse 9)?

14. Define *hospitable* [Strong's #5382]. See also Rom. 12:13; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; Heb. 13:1-2; and 1 Pet. 4:9 as you formulate your answer.

15. True hospitality literally means, the love of strangers. In a Biblical sense then, showing hospitality would mean going out of your comfort zone and getting to know new people at church or spending time with people you know only on a surface level. How are you doing in this area? What are some practical ways you apply this command in your life?

16. Why would it be so important to practice hospitality without complaining? How are you doing in this area?

17. What do you learn about gifts from verses 10-11?

18. Now look up Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-10; Eph. 4:4-7, 11-13. What else do you learn about the gifts of God?

19. Why does God give believers a special gift? See 1 Pet. 4:10-11 and 1 Cor. 12:7.

20. Every believer receives a special gift from God when they are born again. The Holy Spirit residing in us gives us the desire and ability to serve in different ways in the body of Christ. How are you using *your* special gift given to you from God? How have you *developed* your gift to serve the body of Christ in a more excellent way? If you are not sure what your gift is, just begin to get involved at church by serving in a ministry. Over time your area of giftedness

will become clear to you and to others: not only will you like your area of service, but others will like you serving in that area!

21. The commands of verses 7-11 are to be obeyed on a continual basis. Yet in this letter, Peter includes them in the middle of his comments about giving God glory in suffering and persecution and difficulty. Why do we need to pay particular attention to these commands when we are going through trials? How would your obedience to verses 7-11 give God glory?

God never wastes His servants' pain.
God never wastes His servants' time.
God never wastes His servants' toil.
God never wastes His servants' gifts.
~Amy Carmichael

Many pray, "Let this cup pass away," but few, "Thy will be done."
~Thomas Watson

Be often among the godly. They are the salt of the earth, and will help to season you. Their counsel may direct; their prayers may enliven you. Such holy sparks may be thrown into your breasts as may kindle devotion in you. It is good to be among the saints to learn the trade of godliness: He that walketh with the wise men shall be wise (Prov. 13:20)." ~Thomas Watson