

The Gospel: [Life in Light of Hope](#)

[What's the Big Idea?](#)

The hope and inheritance of the gospel affects the way God's people approach life, God, and relationships with others.

[What's the Problem?](#)

We often become intoxicated with the allurements of our society, fear people more than we fear God, and wane in our love for others.

[What's our Response?](#)

In light of the hope and inheritance the gospel provides, God's people should live in readiness, fear of God, and love for each other.

[Memorize](#)

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13

[What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?](#)

This passage outlines how the hope and inheritance of the gospel should affect our approach to life, our relationship with God, and our relationships with others. Help your group consider to what extent these truths are showing up in their lives and how they can draw on God's power to make them more of a reality.

[Ready for God to Work-1 Peter 1:13-16](#)

In light of the hope and inheritance we have through the gospel, we should be ready for God to work. Peter gives four ways.

First, we should prepare our minds for action. God is at work all around us, and Peter says we should live with alertness and expectation for him to be at work in and through our lives.

Second, we should keep sober in spirit. But we tend to be intoxicated by various things like food, alcohol, material possessions, or exercise. Lead your group in considering the things that are most likely to intoxicate you.

Third, we should fix our hope on the grace we'll receive when Christ returns. If it's not enough that God has poured out his grace in our lives when we first came to faith in his Son, Peter suggests in this statement that this is only a foretaste of the undeserved favor God will lavish on us when Jesus returns. Help your group to think about how fixing our hope on this grace can make a difference in our everyday lives.

Fourth, we should reject the life we used to live before coming to Christ and live holy lives that bear a "family resemblance" to the holiness of our heavenly Father. Lead your group to consider the ways God is calling each of them to live a life that's more set apart to God and his purposes.

[Fear of God-1 Peter 1:17-21](#)

Peter in this section calls his readers to live with a healthy fear of God. This doesn't mean we should cower in the corner, worried that God will zap us if we make one false move. It means that we have a concern for pleasing God that outweighs any concern for pleasing ourselves or others. Fearing God means that we realize that there's nothing better than living in his will and nothing worse than living outside of it; this fear moves us toward God because we don't want to miss his best for us. Help your group see that this fear is rooted in Christ's love for us. He's worthy of us trusting and fearing him because he laid down his life for us.

Love for Others-1 Peter 1:22-25

The hope and inheritance of the gospel should move us into others' lives with a fervent and sincere love. Help your group to identify the people in their lives who are most difficult to love. Lead them to see how Christ wants to love these people fervently and sincerely through them as they draw on the power of God's Spirit to direct Christ's love toward them.

What Are the Questions?

Launch

Give an example of how you've responded when you've received something unbelievably incredible.

Explore

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16

1. What do you think Peter means when he tells his readers to prepare their minds for action?
2. What do you think it means to be sober in spirit?
3. What do you think Peter means when he tells his readers to fix their hope completely on the grace to be brought to them at the revelation of Jesus Christ (see verses 4-5 for a clue)?
4. What do you think it means to be holy in all your behavior?

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21

5. What is the main command Peter gives in this section?
6. What do you think this means?
7. What basis does Peter give for this command?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25

8. What is the main command in this section?
9. What do you think it means to love one another fervently and from the heart?
10. How do you think being born again of imperishable seed relates to loving fervently and from the heart?

Apply

11. How can you grow in a readiness and expectation for God to work in and around you?
12. What intoxicant is the greatest temptation to your being sober in spirit (e.g.: alcohol, food, entertainment, sports, etc.)?
13. How do you think fixing your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ could have a daily impact on your life?
14. In what area do you sense God calling you to trust in his power to "be holy in all your behavior"?
15. How do verses 17-21 motivate you to "conduct yourself in fear"?
16. What is the greatest competition for you in having a healthy fear of God?
17. Think of the most significant relationships in your life. What's a step you can take in God's power to love one of these people fervently and from the heart?

What Are the Answers?

1. "Preparing your minds for action" means living with a readiness for God to work in and around you.
2. Keeping sober in spirit means living so that nothing intoxicates you except for the love and life of God.
3. Fixing our hope on the grace to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ means looking forward with confident expectation to the undeserved favor God will lavish on us as Christ's followers at Jesus' return.
4. Being holy in all our behavior means comprehensively setting ourselves apart for God's will and purposes.
5. The main command in this section is to "conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth" (verse 17).
6. It means that we live with a healthy reverence and fear of God. We're more concerned with displeasing him than with displeasing friends and family, more concerned with doing his will than our own.
7. God has redeemed us with the blood of his Son.
8. The main command in this section is to fervently love one another from the heart.
9. Loving fervently means there's a passion to our love. Loving from the heart means there's sincerity and authenticity to it. We're not putting on airs.

10. It provides the power source. It also provides motivation, knowing that we're going to spend eternity together.
11. Allow the group to discuss.
12. Allow the group to discuss.
13. Allow the group to discuss.
14. Allow the group to discuss.
15. Allow the group to discuss.
16. Allow the group to discuss.
17. Allow the group to discuss.