

Just Checking In
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Think Right.... Live Right

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Peter clearly understood that how we live is the direct result of how we think about God, ourselves, and life.

It is absolutely impossible to live right if we don't think right!

And right thinking is the result of a new birth and the constant intake and processing of God's word. (1 Peter 1:23-2:2)
In his first letter Peter moves back and forth between right thinking and right living... seeing God, ourselves and our world clearly and then living rightly in response. It truly is a battle for the mind. I would suggest that Peter's major theme is summed up at the beginning and the conclusion of his letter in these two verses...

Beginning command

1 Peter 1:13 "Therefore *gird up the loins of your mind*, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"

Concluding command

1 Peter 4:1 "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, *arm yourselves also with the same mind*, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin"

Peter's three big themes are

- #1) **Life is a Journey**, we are **pilgrims** & strangers here, but soon we will be **home**
- #2) **Life is a Battle**, we are **soldiers**, but soon we will rest **victorious**
- #3) **Life is a Test**, we are **sufferers** here, but soon we will receive **glory**

THINK RIGHT... LIVE RIGHT Peter calls us to think right about God, Ourselves, and Life in this world. Let me encourage you to read slowly (Don't rush! Slow down!) and think through the following lists that give us right thinking about God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and ourselves as His people who are called to live right in a world gone wrong!

God the Father

- has chosen us to be His 1:2
- knows and has planned everything 1:2
- is the Father of Jesus Christ 1:3
- has overflowing mercy 1:3
- gives us the new birth 1:3
- raised Jesus from the dead 1:3
- gives us a secure and eternal inheritance in heaven 1:4
- keeps us secure 1:5
- called us to be holy 1:16
- judges each person individually and without favoritism 1:17
- has sent His word which is the source of our new birth 1:23
- has given us His word which is eternal and absolutely faithful 1:23-25
- is gracious 2:3
- accepts our offerings of praise and worship thru Jesus Christ 2:5
- called us out of darkness into His marvelous light 2:9

makes us His own people and gives us mercy 2:10
calls us to submit to earthly authorities for His sake and will 2:13
is pleased when we submit to grief and mistreatment humbly and for His glory 2:19-21
judges all things righteously in the end 2:23
is the One we put our trust in when we face difficult people and difficult situations 3:5
will not listen to our prayers if we are not treating others with love and respect 3:7
has promised that we will inherit a blessing at the end 3:9
watches over His children and listens to their prayers 3:12
will reject and punish the ungodly at the final judgment 3:12
will call everyone to a final account before Him – living and dead 4:5
is the One to receive all glory and authority forever 4:11
will judge both His people and those who are not His people 4:17
is a faithful Creator 4:19
is all-powerful and calls us to submit to His authority and He will bless us 5:6
calls us to cast our anxieties on Him for He cares tenderly for us 5:7
is the God of all grace 5:10
has called us to inherit His eternal glory 5:10
will perfect, establish, strengthen and settle us in our faith 5:10
deserves all the glory and authority forever 5:11
has revealed His true grace to us in the gospel 5:12

Jesus Christ...

is the Messiah 1:1
has cleansed us from sin by His blood 1:2
is our Lord 1:3
is risen from the dead 1:3
will soon be revealed in glory 1:7
was clearly predicted to suffer and receive glory in the Old Testament 1:11
will fully rescue us by His grace when He is revealed in glory at His return 1:13
redeemed us by His blood 1:18-19
is sinless (the picture of a spotless sacrificial lamb under the old covenant) 1:19
came according to God's eternal plan 1:20
is risen and glorified with the Father today 1:21
is our living foundation/cornerstone 2:4
was rejected by unbelievers but is chosen and precious to God the Father 2:4
makes our offering of praise and worship acceptable to God the Father 2:5
is the Chief Cornerstone of God's true church 2:6
is the perfect Savior in whom all our trust rests without doubt or disappointment 2:6
is precious above all things to us who believe 2:7
is hated and scorned and rejected by unbelievers 2:7-8
suffered for us the perfect example of submission in a rejecting world 2:21
is sinless, never told a lie 2:22
did not lash out with hateful words, did not threaten those who tortured him 2:23
committed himself to the Father who will settle all things justly in the final judgment 2:23
bore our sins to the cross to rescue us by dying in our place 2:24
healed us by the suffering he took – the lashes from the whip that tore him heal us 2:24
is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls 2:25
enables us to live right in a world gone wrong 3:16
to bring us to God suffered once for our sins...put to death & now risen by the Holy Spirit's power 3:18

preached the gospel by the Holy Spirit thru Noah before the flood 3:19-20
is risen and is the meaning behind the symbol of baptism – life from the dead out of water 3:21
is in heaven today at God the Father’s right hand, Lord over all authority and power 3:22
suffered for us in his body and endured with submission to His Father 4:1
is the Judge of all mankind – living and dead 4:5
is the One thru whom God the Father receives glory in all things 4:11
is with us in our suffering, sharing the same persecution, and will share His glory with us 4:13
is the cause of our suffering in a Christ rejecting world and is honored when we obey 4:14
is glorified when we live godly, submissive, patient lives of faithfulness to him 4:14
will share his glory with his people when he returns 5:1
is the soon returning Chief Shepherd of his people who will reward faithfulness 4:4
is the One thru whom we receive eternal glory after our suffering here is done 4:10
is the One in whom every believer is positioned, protected, saved, kept and blessed 4:14

The Holy Spirit

sets us apart to belong to God alone 1:2
indwelt the prophets and revealed to them Christ’s suffering and glory to come 1:10-12
revealed to the prophets that Christ’s coming was in the distant future when they wrote 1:12
was sent from heaven to empower believers to preach the gospel 1:12
raised Jesus from the dead 3:18
empowered Noah to preach the gospel in his day to those who now are dead 3:19
rests upon all those who suffer for Christ’s name and honors and blesses them for their obedience 4:14

You and I as Believers are

Pilgrims 1:1
Chosen 1:2
Set Apart for God 1:2
Cleansed 1:2
Born Again 1:3
Heirs of God 1:4
Tested 1:6-7
Believers 1:8
Soldiers 1:13
Children of God 1:14
Redeemed 1:19
Purified 1:22 (vs 2)
Born Again 1:23 (vs 3)
Living Stones 2:5
Spiritual House 2:5
Holy Priesthood 2:5
Chosen Generation 2:9
Royal Priesthood 2:9
His Special People 2:9
Belonging to God 2:10
Sojourners 2:11
Pilgrims 2:11
His Sheep 2:25
Blessed 3:14
Witnesses 3:15

Soldiers 4:1
Gifted 4:10-11
Tested 4:12
Joined to Christ 4:13
Blessed 4:14
Part of God's flock 5:2
Cared for by God 5:7
In a Battle 5:8-9
In a Family 5:9
In Christ Jesus 5:14

Remember,

life is a journey and you're a pilgrim, soon you will be home. Walk right!
life is a test, and you're a sufferer, soon you will be glorified. Live right!
life is a battle, and you're a soldier, soon you will be at rest. Fight right!

Self Check Questions

- 1) Which of the three illustrations (pilgrim, tested sufferer, soldier) do you most identify with today?
- 2) Which truths about God and yourself most help you face your journey, battle, and test today?
- 3) What verses in 1 Peter should you memorize this week to help you prep your mind for the battle?

For Further Study

Verses on the mind of the believer... Bible Verses about Our Thoughts

Romans 12:2 Philippians 4:8 Ephesians 4:22-32 1 John 1:8 2 Corinthians 10:5 Colossians 3:2-5

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.
Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing the Invisible,
Embracing the Unapproachable,
Declaring the Unexplainable,
Changed by the Immutable,
Running after the Irresistible
With inexhaustible joy
In our inexpressible sorrows,
Spending our time on eternity,
Owning nothing yet possessing everything
That matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY