

Prayer of 1 Peter

When we look at the Word of God, some of the most valuable truths are not seen in isolated scriptures in various books, but when apostles like Paul and Peter prayed specific prayers for believers throughout the Body. We must not casually look at these prayers and say that they were only meant for that group of believers, but rather that *they were prayed by these apostles to all people in the body of Christ throughout all ages*. Every believer must receive these prayers as though they were personally prayed for themselves by these men of God. And when we choose to look into prayers like this one in 1 Peter, we can see numerous truths that will strengthen our faith and cause us to rise to new levels of revelation in the Word.

- As was said before, what every believer must establish first is that **this is not an isolated prayer**, but one given for the whole body of Christ
 - o This must be accepted as though Peter were standing in front of you praying for you himself
 - o Understanding this truth is the only way we will allow this prayer to impact our lives individually; if we do not, we will passively read through it and not receive the blessings found in it
 - o But when we know this is for us, **it becomes a personal prayer** and we are eager to examine it closely to find out what it entails
 - o When we personalize this prayer, it energizes our faith to take hold of all its blessings and promises

V. 3

- Verse 3 shows us the first important truth in this prayer: *everything in this prayer is based on God's abundant mercy*
- Because of God's limitless mercy, we were once sinful people, but now we have come into his grace and by faith, we are able to partake of all His blessings

- The word “abundant” here means **a high point on any scale or greatly ample**; furthermore, **it carries the idea of value** as well as abundance
 - This shows us **that God did not merely pour something out on us in great quantity, but something of limitless value**, above what we could ask or think
 - No believer can afford to fall into the mindset that because we have been freely given all things that we can casually take them for granted
 - It is only because God looked past our sins and sent His Son in spite of the spiritual wreck we were that we can enjoy all things
 - We must not skip over God’s abundant mercy and immediately go hunting for the blessings
 - **Skipping over this phrase is a sign that we have forgotten what makes the blessings of God possible in our lives**
- The next thing we must see in verse 3 is that because of our salvation through Jesus’ sacrifice, **we have been given a LIVING HOPE**
 - Hope is one of the misunderstood words in the Bible and has confused many believers when it comes to receiving God’s best
 - We have grown up hearing people or even ourselves saying they are “hoping to do this” or “hoping to go there”
 - This is the world’s idea of hope, which is basically wishing something would happen
 - This could not be farther from the truth when it comes to biblical hope; when the Bible refers to hope, it means “**fervent expectation**”
 - There is to be not doubt or fear in our mind that what we are believing for God’s will to come to pass
 - We are eagerly expecting God to perform His Word to the point that **our inner man is so filled with faith and hope that there is no room for fear or doubt**
 - Next, not only has every believer been given the ability to expect God to perform His Word, but our hope is to be **LIVING** in us
 - The idea of having a living hope means that it is *to be in full life and strength, to be fresh*

- Even though we have been given a living hope, we must make sure that we keep that hope full of life and strength
- We cannot allow the devil to slip his little lies and deceptions into our mind
- Every believer has the responsibility to guard their mind vigilantly so that he cannot pollute our hope and prevent God's Word from manifesting in every situation
- The more we cast down his lies and schemes from our mind, the more lively our hope and expectation will be, which allows our faith to give substance to it

V. 4

Now that we have a living hope because of God's abundant mercy, what are we supposed to do with it?

- We see here that **we are to actively partake of the inheritance** that is ours through Jesus
- Because our inheritance comes through our relationship with Jesus, we must understand that **AN INHERITANCE CANNOT BE WORKED FOR, EARNED OR DESERVED; IT CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED AS A FREE GIFT**
 - Believers who approach their inheritance through a works mentality will never fully partake of what is theirs in Christ
 - Our heavenly Father has already given it to us, but he expects us to use our faith to partake of it
- What further hinders our partaking is that far too many believers are not even to the point that they know or believe they have an inheritance, **much less being able to partake of one regularly** (Colossians 1:12 ...we have been made able to partake...)
 - They are merely trying to hold out and hold on until they get to heaven; the only problem is: **THEY WON'T NEED THEIR INHERITANCE IN HEAVEN, THEY NEED THEIR INHERITANCE NOW**

The Amplified says our inheritance is "beyond the reach of change or decay, unsullied and unfading"

- Our inheritance in Christ is unchangeable and unable to be disannulled in any way, shape or form
- **2 Corinthians 1:20** declares all of God's promises are YES and AMEN in Him

- Too often believers have tried to put God in a box, believing that He is faithful to do certain things but not willing to do other things
- We are told in **2 Peter 1** that by God's divine power our inheritance includes **ALL** things pertaining to life and godliness
- Jesus did not come to only save your spirit, but to redeem **EVERY** part of your life back from the curse so the blessing of Abraham could flow in all parts of your life

V. 5

Now verse 5 shows us that as God's children, we are kept and preserved by the power of God until the day of the Lord's return

- We must understand that it is not enough to know that the power of God was given to keep and preserve us
 - Again, passively reading the Word of God causes us to not grasp the truth in it
 - Receiving the truth of the Word requires us to sit down, read the Word and then allow the Holy Spirit to shine the light into our spirit
- For this to happen, we must do just as God commanded Joshua when he took the place of Moses and led the people into the promised land
 - His command was for Joshua to *meditate on the Word day and night*
 - God's children will never see the full light of His Word if they choose to read the Word like they read a novel
 - We cannot read the Word of God to make ourselves feel better and avoid not feeling condemned
 - *Meditation on the Word is the key to the revelation of the Word coming up from our spirit and enlightening our mind*
 - It is far better for us to only read one or two verses and meditate on them until revelation comes than for us to read 3 chapters so we can say we read more
 - **The amount of light you receive on any particular scripture is always equal to the amount of time you spend meditating on the Word**

- Once we have taken the time to meditate on verse 5 and allow it to be grounded into our spirit, we are now in a position to be kept by His power: **through faith**
 - This is why **Romans 10:17** tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God
 - The word hearing in this verse is called a progressive verb in the Greek, meaning that **hearing is a continual process**, not just something we hear once and put to the side
 - This is often the reason for “faith failures”: we have not meditated on the Word until the point it becomes a revelation of the Word rather than mere head knowledge
 - **There is a great difference between acknowledging God’s power will keep you and it being revelation in your heart**

- It is by continually hearing and meditating on God’s Word that faith rises up in our heart so we can believe that His power will keep us throughout every day
 - Now we possess the faith to step out and see His power keep us in the midst of every trial and storm
 - When this truth is revelation in our spirit, there is no storm strong enough and no wall tall enough to keep you from believing that God’s power will destroy every yoke
 - The Lord’s power is there to ensure that His salvation for our entire being – spirit, soul and body – is preserved and protected from every wicked scheme of the devil
 - But, **we are kept through faith; we are only kept by His power to the degree that we have faith in Him to keep us**
 - Even in the midst of the storms and trials, we must have faith that He is not unfaithful nor is His power insufficient to get us through to victory
 - Victory is sure every time when we trust in Him and in His power to overcome the devil at every turn