



Path to Hope: First Peter

Hope & Ministry

Service to the Glory of God
When we serve God with a pure heart we will release His glory in all that we do. This is 'authentic' faith and hope in action.

A. Character and Ministry Under Trial 4:7-11

1. **Be serious:** 4:7 Be sober minded and of a sound mind focused on the Word of God and faith. **Rom 12:3**
2. **Pay attention to prayer:** 4:7 Keep watch through prayer for those going through trials and 'everything.' **1 Thes 5:16-22**
3. **Love the brethren:** 4:8 This is the most important characteristic that will help keep a church together. Fervent means to strain or stretch—stretching love out over others keeps 'forgiveness' alive in a congregation. **1 Cor 13:1-8**
4. **Be hospitable:** 4:9 Sharing with others what God has given us—but don't complain about it. **Acts 2:42-47; Titus 1:8**
5. **Use your spiritual gifts:** 4:10 Note that these are 'spiritual' gifts, NOT natural gifts [charisma]. Spiritual gifts are a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor 12:4-11; 14**
6. **Do everything in the power of God:** 4:11 We are to minister out of the ability [power] that God has poured out upon us.

B. We Minister the Present Glory of God 4:11

"...That in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

The word for 'dominion' here means 'manifested power.' By living according to the six imperatives of 4:7-11 we release the power and glory of God into our lives and the lives of the people we come in contact with.

C. Our Hope is the Future Glory of God 4:12-19

Remember: Hope is 'future faith.'

1. **Rejoice in trial:** 4:12-13 When trials come do not be surprised—instead rejoice.
"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." Jam 1:2-3
2. **Await His Glory:** 4:12-13 The trials of this life cannot be compared to the glory that will be revealed at the second coming of the Messiah. We will be glad with 'exceeding' joy. The literal Greek is 'jump for joy.'
3. **Live in the blessing:** 4:14-16 If we do all for the 'name of Jesus' [Ha Shem] we will be opposed by the world—but we also will be blessed as the 'glory of God' will rest upon us. **His present glory confirms His future glory.**
4. **Commitment to godliness:** 4:17-19 God is serious about His work on this earth and 'judgment' starts with us—His people. **See the 'Revelation Churches' in Revelation chapters 2-3.**
 - a. The commitment that Peter refers to is **not** the initial act of salvation but to a life of obedience and repentance before our Creator God. **1 John 1:5-10**

1 Peter 4:7-19 (NKJV)

:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in **all things** God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the **dominion** forever and ever. Amen.

:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

:13 but **rejoice** to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His **glory** is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding **joy**.

:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, **blessed** are you, for the Spirit of **glory** and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is **glorified**.

:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him **glorify** God in this matter.

:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

:18 Now "IF THE RIGHTEOUS ONE IS SCARCELY SAVED, WHERE WILL THE UNGODLY AND THE SINNER APPEAR?"

:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.