

## “Our Faith” - 1 Peter 4:1-11

Ask - What is the most radical transformation you’ve ever seen in someone’s life?

Background - Peter has been talking very practically about how a person should live for Christ. In today’s lesson, he continues that theme and highlights how a person’s life should be different before and after their salvation.

“Purpose” - 1 Peter 4:1-3

(v1) Referring to the previous chapter, what did Christ do that we should set as our purpose also? Those who suffer (or die) from the flesh cease to do what?

(v2) What should we no longer do? What should we spend the remainder of our lives doing instead?

(v3) Before coming to Christ, we’ve already had sufficient time for what? Discuss the various sinful behaviors listed in this verse.

FOLLOWING CHRIST’S EXAMPLE, OUR PURPOSE SHOULD BE TO DIE TO THE OLD, CARNAL DESIRES OF OUR FLESH. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO LIVE THE REST OF OUR LIVES ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL.

“Judgment” - 1 Peter 4:4-6

(v4) How will our past, unbelieving friends feel about our change in behavior from the ways of the flesh to the will of God? What will they do to us?

(v5) Will they be held accountable for maligning Christians? Who will hold them accountable?

(v6) For what purpose has the gospel been preached? Contrast those who are dead and those who are alive. (*the dead are judged according to the flesh, the living are made spiritually alive according to God’s will*)

THOSE WHO WALK ACCORDING TO THE FLESH WILL FACE GOD’S JUDGMENT. THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL WILL WALK IN GOD’S WILL AND NOT FACE CONDEMNATION.

“God’s Glory” - 1 Peter 4:7-11

(v7-8) Did Peter think that Jesus’ return was far off and nothing to be concerned about? What did Peter instruct his readers to do and why? What were they to do above all other things and why?

(v9-10) What else did he urge them to do? How were they to use their special (spiritual) gift(s)?

(v11) What 2 broad categories of spiritual gifts are named in this verse? Who were the gifts intended to glorify? Why?

BELIEVING THE END WAS NEAR, PETER URGED BELIEVERS TO PRAY SOUNDLY, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, BE HOSPITABLE, AND BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS SO AS TO GLORIFY GOD.

Application - If we are to walk in the will of God, it will require suffering for the cause of Christ. We must die to our old, sinful desires and practices and put on a new man. Those who walk according to the flesh will be judged, but those who believe the gospel will be saved! Therefore, may we practice discipline, obedience, and faithful allegiance to God. May our lives bring Him glory. In what ways does your life bring glory to God?