

DAY 8

As a little kid, I LOVED decorating the Christmas tree. I loved the music, the colors, the smells, and being with my family. Every single year it was like a dream come true... until that fateful moment—when I dropped a bulb. My clumsy little hands would fumble an ornament around and it would fall, almost in slow motion, to the solid hardwood floor. The sound of the delicate glass hitting the floor and shattering was enough to send me over the edge into a massive fit of tears (what can I say? I was a sensitive kid). After ten minutes of screaming, my mom would calm me down and hand me another glass ornament. You would think that she had handed me a \$10,000,000 piece of glass because of how delicately I handled it. I was ridiculously careful because I didn't want to drop another Christmas bulb.

In today's passage, Peter tells Christians that we should walk through our lives with reverence and awe because of Jesus' blood that was sacrificed for us. Just like 5-year-old me, painstakingly cautious so that I wouldn't drop another Christmas bulb, Christians should live with extreme care because Christ's sacrifice is always in our minds. We have reverence and awe for Jesus.

Action Steps:

As you read today's passage, think about the phrase, "the precious blood of Christ," and ask yourself, "How can I cherish Christ's blood in my life today?" Make this personal and specific; write it down so that you don't forget right away.

Prayer:

"Jesus, thank you for your death on the cross. Thank you for giving your life for me. I pray that you would help me to never forget the price you paid for my life. Please help me to live with you in mind always. Amen."

Reading:

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21

DAY 9

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we've heard a lot about stocking up on "nonperishable food." Thanks to modern technology we can literally store food for years on end and it will never go bad (Honestly, I think we could probably bury some Oreos in a box and they would be the same in 1,000 years). I think this is pretty awesome! (and remember: if all else fails, westill have Oreos!)

Have you ever considered that your life is eternal? You are going to exist forever (a little bit like Oreos). But in all seriousness, even though your physical body is going to die, your soul will live on FOREVER. If we have found new life in Jesus, Peter calls you and me "imperishable" seed, and calls us to love the people around us because of the love that God has shown to us.

As you read today's verses, think about the reality that you are an eternal being. Your soul will never die. Thank God for the love that he has shown you, that we don't have to wonder what eternity looks like for us because our heavenly Father has prepared a place for us. You can confidently share the love of Jesus with those around you knowing that you have eternal security.

Prayer:

"God, I thank you that You have given me eternal life in Jesus. Please never let me take my life for granted. It is a gift from you. Amen"

Read:

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25

Read John 14:2

DAY 10

When babies are born, they need A LOT of attention. They need people to watch them, hold them, play with them, talk to them, feed them, and just look at them! Infants are completely dependent on their caretakers. One of the most important things to give a newborn baby is milk. Babies don't necessarily need a lot of food, but they need the right food.

As Christians, sometimes it is a challenge to know what to read or listen to. Today, there are a thousand different preachers to listen to and a million different books to read... not to mention podcasts! There is so much content to consume that sometimes we might have trouble figuring out what the right information is.

This passage tells us to desire "pure spiritual milk" just like a newborn infant would. Peter knows that the way for us to grow in our faith is by feeding on the right substance. In the previous chapter (1 Pet 1:24-25) we learn that the Word of God is eternal and is the right food for Christians. As Jesus followers, there are certain practices we must avoid, but there are also things that our spirits need in order to thrive. One of the most important things we need to be reminded of is to regularly take in scripture, it gives us the nourishment we need as we pursue Jesus above all else. We all know that it can be difficult to read the Bible (it can feel boring sometimes!), but that's why we create studies and post Bible verses on Instagram. It doesn't matter how we are getting Scripture in us; it only matters that we are getting it.

Action Steps:

As you read today's verses, think about how you have treated the Word of God in your life so far. Has it taken a central role? Does it help you love God more? Are there truths that you are holding onto? If not, take 5 minutes and write three ways that you can read a little bit of Scripture this week.

Prayer:

"God, I thank you for your Word. I pray that you would give me a heart to receive all that you desire to give me through your word. Please give me strength to stay consistent in reading the Bible. Thank you that your Word gives me life. Amen."

Listen:

Listen to "Set a Fire" by United Pursuit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpXd6-cT-cY>

Read:

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3

Read 1 Peter 1:24-25

Read 2 Timothy 3:16

DAY 11

In the movie Finding Dory, the main character is a fish who lost her family and her home when she was a little girl. The movie details the story of Dory wrestling through her own fears and doubts about who she is as she tries to find her family. She is so tied to her identity of "short-term memory loss" that it can be funny, but she is also so insecure that it drives me to talk at her through the screen!

Have you ever felt like Dory: insignificant, worthless, afraid, depressed, or disconnected? Have you ever felt like you are the only one who understands you?

These kinds of thoughts often run through our minds. There seem to be constant voices of doubt and fear that come from deep within. We doubt who we are, why we exist, and if we actually matter. But is this how it is supposed to be?

If there was any question about whether YOU matter, it is answered here. You are given seven titles in six verses. Peter is trying to tell you that you are not a failure, screwup, jock, bully, athlete, baller, gamer, skinny, fat, pretty, ugly, or anything else, but that you are *one of the chosen people of God* (1 Pet 2:10).

Yes, you matter, and you are chosen. But why?

These verses explain that, "As you come to him (Jesus), a *living stone*... you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house..." (1 Pet 2:4-5). You are chosen because Jesus is the chosen. You are priests because Jesus is the Great High Priest (Heb 4:14-15). You are holy because Jesus is the Holy Lamb of God (John 1:29).

Like Dory you may have questioned who you are, where you came from, or where you are going. QUESTION NO MORE! As you journey through this life, God WANTS you to know that you are his. As you read these verses think about who you are because of who Jesus is.

Prayer:

"Father, I thank you that my identity is secure because of Jesus! Forgive me for trying to find my identity in other things. I receive your love and acceptance. Amen"

Read:

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

Read Psalm 139:13-16

Read Romans 8:14-16 Read Ephesians 2:4-10

DAY 12

Have you ever seen a war movie? Maybe it was 1917, Hacksaw Ridge, or Fury. Maybe it was a fantasy or sci-fi film like Star Wars, The Avengers, or Lord of the Rings. If you haven't seen any of these movies... well... I'm sorry for you. If you have, you'll notice that during the fight scenes, there aren't any tailgate parties happening. Which makes perfect sense, right?! In the heat of the battle, people aren't concerned with makeup, video games, sports, or their TikTok. Being in a battle brings focus, why, because it is necessary for survival!

In this passage, Peter uses words like "urge," "abstain," "passions," and "wage war" to describe our lives. Whether we like it or not, the journey that we are on is a war. It is a war between God and Satan (not like God has to try!), and a war between our flesh (sinful part) and our spirit (Godly part).

As followers of Jesus, with secure identities (as we read about yesterday), we need to remember that we are a battle that God equips us to win (1 Corinthians 10:13). God calls us to a high standard, and by the power of Jesus, we can live up to it.

Like our favorite movie characters, let's stay focused—let's fight with everything in us because of what Jesus has accomplished for us!

Prayer:

"Father, help me to stay focused on what is most important. Forgive me for being distracted by things that aren't important. I trust you to help me fight my battles."

Read:

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

DAY 13

When I was in high school, I didn't like it when people told me what to do... especially teachers! I had an authority issue (probably still do). There is something inside the human heart that wants to resist the people and organizations that we are under. Why? Well... pride. We are prideful people who think that our plans and ideas are better than everyone else's — **we have an illusion of control.**

Have you ever considered that God desires for us to "submit" to the authorities in our lives? Every person on earth has someone above them who they need to submit to---even people with a status like Denzel Washington, Sia, or President Trump. Ultimately, everyone is under God.

To be clear, God's call for us to "submit" (or "be subject to") does not mean that we should endure abuse from people or institutions. But it doesn't give us a pass to do our own thing when it becomes challenging. This passage of 1 Peter gives three examples: citizens and government, slaves and masters, and wives and husbands. All of these scenarios are difficult to understand, but the point is: **there is a godly way to live in and under any situation in life.**

Jesus is the ultimate example of submission.

In 1 Pet 2:22-24, Peter quotes Isaiah 53 (confusing, I know!) in order to say that Jesus is the only one who has done this "submission" thing perfectly. He was obedient to God even while he was dying on the cross (Philippians 2:8)!

Action Steps

As you read today's passage, think about Jesus and the way that he was obedient. Then think about your own life and the people you are called to respect and obey. Ask God for help as you seek to live for him.

Make a list of 3 categories (parents, teachers/coaches and government) in your life and people under them to pray for. For example, under the parents write out your parents' names and pray for them and their leading, as well as, your ability to listen to them. Ask God to give you the strength and patience to respond respectfully even when they are so clearly #boomers.

Prayer:

"God, please give me the strength and patience to submit to the authorities that you have placed in my life. I also pray that you would give them wisdom as they make decisions that affect others. I know that you have a purpose in everything and ask that you would help me to love your plan more than my own. Amen."

Read:

Read 1 Peter 2:13-3:7

Read Isaiah 53:2-9

Read Philippians 2:8

DAY 14

This week we've talked a lot about who you are (if you don't remember, check out days 10 and 11), today's reflection is about identity.

Take a few minutes to write down your identity as a child of God. Ask yourself the question: When God looks at me, what does he see? (If you need help, read 1 Peter 2:1-10 again.) Be reminded that you have been given the tools and weapons to win your battle because God lives within you.

Action Steps:

Now, if you have the time, check out this sermon from Vox Church Lead Pastor Justin Kendrick about identity:

<https://voxchurch.org/page/674?Item=472>

Read:

Read 1 Peter 2:1-10

Read Romans 8:14-16