

# The Messenger

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### **1 Peter 4 (Applied Verse by Verse)**

#### **Living for God**

- 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.
  - We must choose to suffer for Christ as He chose to suffer for us. We pick something (sinful) that we do, start small (or easy); make a commitment to suffer through denying ourselves the thing we’ve chosen.
  - While resisting the chosen sin, we must not think about what we are denying ourselves. Think instead of holy things.
  - Also, pray for complete removal of the sinful habit. We’ll know when it is gone. Then, we can pick another sin to protest, turn from (on purpose), and pray against with a pure heart.
  - **2 Timothy 2:22**  
Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a *pure heart*.
- 2 As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.
  - Amen, evil human desires have no authority in the body of Christ (our bodies and minds).
  - Each earthly desire we purposely defeat in Jesus name makes us one step closer to living the rest of our earthly life solely for the will of God.
- 3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.
  - Thank God, we have the ability to be reborn into a life for Him leaving behind the past.
- 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.
  - We suffer through persecution everywhere that we make known publicly that we live for Christ. Praise God!

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- 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
  - Be thankful that we have God's forgiveness and therefore on the Day of Judgment we will not be standing before the Lord searching for justification of our actions as those who live in the world.
- 6 For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.
  - We must carry the gospel to others that they might choose to live according to God in regard to the spirit as we do.
- 7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.
  - Prayer takes practice. We can't expect to pray for just anything and get it. We have to have that clear mind and control ourselves. It is up to us to choose how we think and thinking controls behavior. If we control our thinking we then can have self-control.
- 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
  - When we love each other it cancels any anger, discord, hate, etc. we may have for each other if we did not love.
  - When love is hard to come by we need to ask God for love to cover the anger or frustration that we feel toward someone.
- 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
  - Study help from the Amplified Bible:  
(Those of the household of faith). [Be hospitable, be a lover of strangers, with brotherly affection for the unknown guests, the foreigners, the poor, and all others who come your way who are of Christ's body.] And [in each instance] do it ungrudgingly (cordially and graciously, without complaining but as representing Him).
- 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
  - **Romans 1:9-12**  
God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.
  - Read on spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and 14.

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11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- Self-control
- **Galatians 5:22-24:**  
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

### Suffering for Being a Christian

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

- Be aware of the glory God is receiving due to your persecution.

13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

- Be grateful that as His full of radiance and splendor is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph exultantly.
- Celebrate! As you are persecuted celebrate in God's glory and know that your celebration confuses the devil and the worldly people who mistreat you.

14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

- On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.
- *Blessed* (happy, fortunate, to be envied, with life-joy, and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of your outward condition)

15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

- If you suffer; suffer because you have given up friends like those described in **2 Timothy 3:1-5**:  
But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

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16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

- Praise God! The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is no honor greater than suffering because of the name of Jesus Christ.

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- **1 Corinthians 4:3-5:**

I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

- As for the ungodly? We do not want to know.

18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.