

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Peter Bible Study — I Peter 1:14-17 Lesson #4

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in First Peter before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.

14-16 As obedient children, **not CONFORMING yourselves to the FORMER LUSTS, as in your IGNORANCE**; but as He who called you is holy, **you also be HOLY in all your CONDUCT**, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

• **Acts 17:30** “Truly, these times of _____ God overlooked, but now _____ all men everywhere to _____.”

• **II Corinthians 7:1** “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let _____ cleanse _____ from all _____ of the _____ and spirit, perfecting _____ in the fear of God.”

• **Ephesians 2:3** “Among whom we also all _____ ourselves in the _____ of the _____, fulfilling the desires of the _____ and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, just as _____ others.”

Definition: “These times of IGNORANCE God OVERLOOKED” – IGNORANCE means actually NOT knowing about something AT ALL. Acts 17:30 is talking about people who don’t even know God’s laws before they are saved (and His overlooking their sin was **only temporary** - they still need to receive Jesus in order to be saved), but it also applies to us as new, “baby” Christians. **God will often “overlook” or NOT discipline us for wrong doing when we are very new Christians**, but as we learn more about Him and His word, **we are supposed to GROW into MATURITY as Believers in Christ**. When a little baby is first learning to walk, we don’t spank them for falling down, but you do expect a teenager to know how to walk and get around without falling all over the place. If they are always falling, then something is wrong. **Someone who has been saved for a few years should not STILL be acting like a BABY Christian**. Each one of us is responsible for our own GROWTH, and God does not want us to STAY spiritual BABIES forever! He wants us to GROW and MATURE in Christ, but it doesn’t happen automatically. YOU must **FEED your re-born SPIRIT with spiritual food, the WORD of GOD**, in order to GROW. The SOUL and SPIRIT are closely linked together, so you must also **RENEW your MIND, which is part of your SOUL**. You will truly see **spiritual GROWTH** and you will be TRANSFORMED into the likeness of Jesus Christ, as you renew your mind with the word of God.

• **I Peter 2:2** “As newborn _____, desire the pure milk of the _____, that you may _____ thereby.”

• **II Peter 3:18** “But _____ in the _____ and _____ of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

• **Ephesians 4:23-24** “And be _____ in the spirit of your _____; and that you put on the _____, which was _____ according to God, in _____ and true _____.”

Definition: “Not CONFORMING yourselves to the FORMER LUSTS” – “Former lusts” means our old way of behavior IN THE PAST, before we were saved, especially when we followed the desires of our flesh almost exclusively - **the lifestyle of “If it FEELS GOOD, DO IT.”** Instead of conforming ourselves to our old behavior and way of life, God wants us to be conformed to (made in the image or likeness of) His Son Jesus Christ. **We are to allow the Holy Spirit to make us like Jesus** and give us the CHARACTER QUALITIES of JESUS, as **God wants to exchange the character qualities of Jesus for our CHARACTER DEFECTS and SHORTCOMINGS**. As we remove our character

defects and shortcomings **to make room for the Spirit of God to produce His FRUIT**, we begin to have the character qualities of Jesus, and we will look and act like Jesus (become conformed to His image).

• **Romans 8:29** “For whom He foreknew (knew before we were born), He also predestined to be _____ to the _____ of His _____, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

• **Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you (beg you) therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present (yield, give) your _____ as a living sacrifice, _____, _____ to God, which is your reasonable service. And do _____ be _____ to this world, but be transformed by the _____ of your _____ that you may prove (demonstrate) what is that good and acceptable and perfect _____ of God.”

• **Galatians 5:22-23** “But the _____ of the _____ is _____, _____, _____, longsuffering (patience), _____, _____, _____, faithfulness, _____, _____ . Against such there is no law.”

• **John 15:8** “By this is My _____ glorified, that you bear (produce) much _____; so you will [prove to] be My _____.”

• **Romans 6:1-2** ““What shall we say then? Shall we _____ in _____ that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who _____ to _____ live any _____ in it?”

• **Romans 6:15** “What then? Shall we _____ because we are not under law, but under _____? Certainly _____!”

• **I Peter 4:3** “For we have _____ enough of our _____ lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles (non-believers), when we _____ in _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ parties and _____.”

Definition: “You also be HOLY in all your CONDUCT” – Being “holy” in our CONDUCT is also called “SANCTIFICATION” in the Bible. HOLINESS means PURITY, being SET APART for God and His use. The word “SAINT” comes from the same word as “sanctified” in the Greek. This is a PROCESS and a ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE, both. We are sanctified, or MADE HOLY in God’s sight when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior (I Thessalonians 5:23, I Peter 1:2, I Corinthians 6:11). However, **this particular Scripture here is talking about our continual SANCTIFICATION in our CONDUCT, which is the PROCESS by which we are becoming MORE LIKE CHRIST** as we YIELD more and more of our SELVES to the control of the Holy Spirit. God’s word says that **WE as Believers** are the ones who **put off the “old man”, which means WE have a CHOICE** about following the **old nature** and its desires, or following the **NEW NATURE** in Christ. If we **renew our minds** with the word of God, we will have the **will power** and strength from God to **choose the new nature** (the UNSAVED person does not even HAVE a new nature). When it says, **“PUT OFF the OLD MAN”** it means to **STOP FOLLOWING our old sinful human nature**, and the **habits and behavior patterns** we learned BEFORE we were BORN AGAIN.

• **Romans 6:12-13** “Do not _____ sin reign (have control) in your mortal _____, that you should _____ it in its desires. And do _____ yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members (parts of your body) as instruments of _____ unto _____.”

• **Ephesians 4:22-24** “That _____ put _____, concerning your former _____, the _____, which is corrupt according to its deceitful _____ and _____”

eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge (cleanse) your conscience from _____ works to _____ the _____ God?"

• **Hebrews 6:1** "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of _____ from _____ and of faith toward God."

Definition: "Your SOJOURNING here in FEAR" – "Sojourn" means a temporary stay or visit. Our earthly life is only a short, temporary sojourn until we get to heaven, but we should live our life in the "fear of the Lord". The "Fear of the Lord" means **reverential AWE and RESPECT for God**, especially as EVIDENCED by OBEDIENCE to His commands and DOING His will. For us, as New Testament Believers, it means HOLY living, being filled with the Spirit, and "walking in a manner worthy of the Lord." Some people **have trouble with the concept of FEARING God, because it seems like a negative thing**, or has connotations of punishment or abuse from a parent in their childhood. If this is your case, whenever you see the words "fear of the Lord" or "fear God" just substitute "obedience to the Lord" and "OBEY God." Some people just don't like the idea of fearing God, because they want a "touchy-feely" religion, and want to think of God ONLY as a loving, indulgent Heavenly Father. Well, God IS a loving God, but He is not indulgent - **He practices "tough love."** There are negative consequences for disobeying God, just as there are positive consequences (blessings) for obeying God. One of the many benefits or positive consequences of fearing/obeying God is that we will receive rewards in heaven. **What Is the BASIS for REWARDS for Believers?** Obedience to God's commands is what He considers "good works," but God sees what **motive** is behind the works we do, and that **inner MOTIVE and ATTITUDE of the heart** is as important as the outward deed. Deuteronomy 28:47 says the Israelites were under the curse not only because of their disobedience, but **because they "did not serve God with JOY and a GLAD heart"** and their attitude was wrong. Works done with wrong motives are "wood, hay, and straw" - no rewards!

• **I Corinthians 3:12-15** "Now if anyone _____ on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's _____ will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be revealed by _____; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's _____ which he has built on it (*on the foundation of Christ*) endures, he will _____ a _____. If anyone's _____ is burned, he will suffer _____; but he _____ will be _____, yet so as through _____."

• **Revelation 2:23** ".....And all the _____ shall know that I am _____ who _____ the _____ and _____. And I will give to each one of you according to your _____."

• **Ephesians 6:6-8** "Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the _____ of God from the _____, with _____ doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever _____ anyone does, he will _____ the same from the _____...."

• **Revelation 3:1b-2** ".....I know your _____, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are _____. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have _____ found your _____ perfect before God."

• **Revelation 22:12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My _____ is with Me, to _____ to every one _____ to his _____."

• **Revelation 11:18** "The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the _____ of the _____, that they should be _____, and that You should _____ Your _____ the prophets and the _____, and those who _____ Your _____, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."