

1 Peter: A Living Hope (6 of 8)
"Prepare For Battle"
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
March 12, 2023

Big Idea: Jesus is our living hope, who sustains us through the trials of life.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." **1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)**

To Prepare For Battle I Will:

1. Arm Myself With Being All In For Jesus

¹ So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must **arm** yourselves with the same **attitude** he had, and **be ready** to suffer, too. For if you have **suffered** physically for Christ, you have **finished** with sin. ² You won't spend the rest of your lives **chasing your own desires**, but you will be anxious to **do the will of God**.

1 Peter 4:1-2 (NLT2)

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. **Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)**

⁵ Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)**

- **Be A Disciple Maker**

"Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you." **Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)**

Notes: _____

2. Arm Myself With Saying “No” To Destructive Things

“You have **had enough** in the past of the evil things that **godless** people enjoy—their **immorality and lust**, their **feasting** and **drunkenness** and **wild parties**, and their terrible **worship of idols**.” **1 Peter 4:3 (NLT)**

- Think Clearly 1 Peter 1:13
- Exercise self control 1 Peter 1:13
- Don’t slip back into old ways 1 Peter 1:13
- Get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech 1 Peter 2:1-3

⁴ Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. ⁵ But remember that they will have to face God, who will judge everyone, both the living and the dead. ⁶ That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit. ⁷ The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. **1 Peter 4:4-7 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

3. Arm Myself With Love

“Above all, love each other deeply, because **love covers over a multitude of sins**. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” **1 Peter 4:8-9 (NIV)**

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to **serve** others, faithfully **administering God’s grace** in its various forms. 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.”

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

Notes: _____

- How should I prepare for battle this week?

My next right step, I will arm myself with:

- Being all in.
- Saying no to destructive things.
- Love and service.

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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

Big Idea: The depth of our faith is revealed when we are refined by fire.

Open your group with a prayer.

Icebreaker:

How close have you come to dying or being seriously ill?

Study:

Read 1 Peter 4:1

How can identifying with Jesus' suffering help us be prepared to battle against our sinful desires?

How can suffering change a person's life for the better?

How have you seen this true to be in your life?

Read and discuss:

Commentary: (4:1) Self-Denial— Suffering: arm yourself with the mind of Christ. What does this mean? First, it means to die to self; to deny oneself. Jesus Christ denied Himself to the ultimate degree: He suffered for us in the flesh. Jesus Christ lived a pure and righteous life and men persecuted Him for it. But He bore the humiliation, ridicule, mockery, beatings, and even death in order to please God and to save men. In the flesh He did not want to suffer. He had a flesh just like ours, the flesh of humanity; therefore, His flesh wanted and desired to escape the abuse of men (cp. [Hebrews 2:14-15](#)). But Jesus Christ denied Himself and went ahead and did the will of God. The exhortation is strong: "Now, you do the same thing. Arm yourself with the mind of Christ." Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary

Read 1 Peter 4:2

What do you know for sure is God's will for your life?

Read Philippians 2:5-11

How would you describe the attitude of Jesus?

How much did He give up saving us?

Read Matthew 28:19-20

What is God's plan to reach the world?

How do you fit into His plan?

Read 1 Peter 4:3-7

Why would the radical change in lifestyle of the Christians be so upsetting to the Pagan culture?

How does your lifestyle differ that of your non-Christian friends?

Read and discuss:

Commentary: 4:4 When a person becomes a Christian, sometimes his or her lifestyle changes drastically. This was especially true for first-century believers who had come out of the morally corrupt pagan world. Many of Peter's readers were Jewish Christians, but, as 4:3 indicates, many also had come from a pagan background. Former Jews would have at least led a morally upright life, while former pagans had been involved in the activities that Peter had just listed (4:3). Christians no longer desire to join their pagan friends in the wicked things they do. These friends had sought pleasure by denying themselves nothing. Together, they did it all. When the Christians stopped, their friends not only are very surprised, but they also say evil things. This describes the reaction of people who love darkness when they become confronted by the light. A believer's refusal to participate in an activity is a silent condemnation of that activity. Unbelievers then react with hostility, often because they want to justify their actions or silence their own consciences. Life Application New Testament Commentary.

Read 1 Peter 4:8-11

Read and discuss:

Commentary: 4:10 Each person has received one or more **spiritual gifts** from **God**—a talent or ability empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to be used in the ministry of the church. Spiritual gifts help God's people to serve and love one another (4:8) and continue the work of spreading the gospel. Some of this **great variety** of gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31; and Ephesians 4:11-12—these lists are different and are by no means exhaustive. When believers humbly recognize their partnership in the body of Christ, their gifts can be used effectively. Life Application New Testament Commentary.

What are some priorities that Christians should have in their life?

What standards does Peter set for us in this passage?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

Snack schedule:
