

# Bible Study Resource

## A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 1:10-13

Peter shares a great deal of wisdom in the book of 1 Peter, much of it gained through His own personal experience as he walked with Jesus. Like many of us today, Peter learned from his successes as well as his failures how to walk faithfully with God. In this passage we all benefit from Peter's experience, and find a powerful plan that provides a foundation for our actions today.

### **Step 1: Prepare Your Mind for Action**

Colossians 3:1-17, Romans 12:1-2

Living the Christian life does not happen by accident. If you want to be ready for action, you must prepare. Getting your mind ready requires focus, effort, and purpose. A casual or passive approach to God will never produce satisfying results. How do you focus your mind on the things of God? What efforts are you applying to remove unwanted behaviors and replace them with productive action? What purpose is God instilling in your heart as you study His Word and draw closer to Him? When your time comes to act, will you be prepared to obey; or will you slip into the wrong behavior?

### **Step 2: Keep Sober in Spirit**

Philippians 4:4-9, A Practical Example – Matthew 26:31-46, 69-75

To be sober in spirit is to be calm, cool, and collected, exercising reason without the influence of emotion. Keeping sober in spirit allows you to face difficult situations with quiet anticipation for God's direction and timing. To be successful in this task, you must rely on a renewed mind that is prepared for action; but that action must be initiated by God. How do you exercise self-control when confronted with difficult situations? How do you avoid being led by your emotions? How do you discern the difference in your own desire and the leading of the Holy Spirit? How do you keep your soul anchored in God's peace?

### **Step 3: Fix Your Hope on Grace**

John 14:1-3, Titus 2:11-14, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:19

How is hope fixed? God establishes it through salvation, and you then make it firm and steady by reinforcing it with the truth of Scripture. Fasten it with truth so that it doesn't waiver or wander. Then you can rest in the hope of that truth, and cease to be driven and tossed by the whim of your enemy. Consider carefully: What shakes your hope? What rattles your faith? What causes doubts to arise in your heart? These are the areas that require your attention. These are the situations that require a prepared mind and a dispassionate spirit. Steps one and two are necessary in order to find success in step three. Every wonderful thing in this life is only temporary. How are you fixing your hope on the eternal Kingdom to come?

As you pray, study, and ponder these things, consider using this song to focus your mind today: "I Will Rise" by Chris Tomlin. Search for it on YouTube.