Commit Your Soul to Him

1 Peter 4:7-19

Read 1 Peter 4:7-19.

1. In this passage, Peter gives believers facing various trials ten additional instructions. What would serve as motivation to carry out these instructions? (v. 7a)

_____

Christ is coming back! The prevailing belief at the time was that Christ would return during their lifetimes. Most generations have felt the same way. We may not know when He will return, but He will indeed! "Therefore…" Christ's return, whether this year or 1,000 years from now, should motivate His followers to live every day with expectancy.

2. Record the behaviors that should be exemplified in the life of expectant believers.

   v. 7b _____

   v. 7b _____

   v. 8 _____

   v. 9 _____

   v. 10 _____

   v. 12 _____

   v. 13 _____

   v. 16ab _____

   v. 16c _____

   v. 19 _____

Serious - to curb one's passions, to be of sound mind and be sober, intelligent

3. **THINK:** When it comes to end-time prophecy (the Rapture, Tribulation, and Second Coming of Jesus Christ), it is important for believers to have a sound mind and to be sober and intelligent in their thinking. What do you think could be dangerous about a believer who has allowed their ideas and thoughts about end-time prophecy to become misguided or distorted?

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4. **THINK HARDER:** How could a believer with a sober and intelligent perspective of end-time prophecy be beneficial to others?

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5. Read the following verses and describe some of the reasons God gave us end-time prophecy.

Matthew 24:4-5

_____

John 14:28-29

_____

Luke 21:34-36

_____

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

_____

2 Peter 3:11

_____

6. **THINK:** The definition of the word *serious* included the idea of having intelligence. What logical source of intelligence helps to keep one's mind serious and sober-minded when it comes to end-time prophecy, and why?

_____

_____

7. What else is important in the life of a believer, especially when we consider "the end of all things"? (v. 7)

_____

Watchful - to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect; alert and self-controlled

8. Read Mark 14:37-40. Summarize why Peter may have been particularly passionate about watchful prayer in the life of a believer.

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_____

Peter had learned a valuable lesson. Desire and self-determination to stand with Jesus are not enough. He learned firsthand that we need God's wisdom and power to overcome the weakness of our flesh.

9. Read the following verses and record what you learn about watchful prayer.

Matthew 26:41

_____

Luke 21:36

_____

Colossians 4:2

_____

Ephesians 6:10-18

_____

_____

10. **THINK:** What are some things that can hinder someone from being watchful in prayer?

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11. **THINK HARDER:** What are some tangible things you can do to be more watchful and alert in your prayers?

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12. What are we to do above all things? (v. 8)

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13. **THINK**: How do you think focusing on the return of Christ could influence your love for other believers?

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14. Read John 13:34-35 and describe what Jesus had to say about the importance of believers loving one another.

_____

15. **THINK**: The word *fervent* has the idea of working toward or straining to reach a goal. With this in mind, what do you think it means to love fervently?

_____

_____

16. Peter quoted from Proverbs 10:12 when he said, “Love will cover a multitude of sins.” Read the following verses and record what you learn about love and sin among believers.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

_____

_____

Proverbs 17:9

_____

James 5:20

_____

17. **THINK:** Summarize what you think it means for a believer to love in a way that covers sin.

_____

_____

In 1 Peter 4:9-10, Peter encourages us to be hospitable without complaining and to use our gifts to serve one another. Both of these qualities come from a place of fervent love.

18. Read the following verses and record what you learn about godly hospitality.

Leviticus 19:34

_____

Luke 14:12-14

_____

_____

Acts 28:2

_____

Hebrews 13:16

_____

19. **THINK:** In Romans 16, Paul encourages the believers in Rome to welcome a fellow believer in "a manner worthy of the saints." Based on what you have read, what would it look like for you to offer hospitality in a way that is worthy of the saints?

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_____

20. Read the following verses and record what you learn about service and spiritual gifts.

Ephesians 2:10

_____

James 1:17

_____

Colossians 3:23-24

_____

_____

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

_____

21. Read the following verses and record what you learn about using your spiritual gifts to serve others.

Romans 12:6-8

_____

_____

I Corinthians 14:12

_____

1 Corinthians 12:18-27

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_____

22. **THINK:** In light of what you have just studied, what do you think Jesus was saying in Matthew 25:29?

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23. In what ways are you currently using your gifts to serve the body of Christ? If you're not currently using your gifts to serve the body, what can you do today to change that?

_____

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24. According to 1 Peter 4:11, why should we be careful to use our gifts well?

_____

Previously, Peter had been talking about the various trials that most Christians will face in their lifetime. However, in verse 12, he begins to address the more intense suffering or "fiery trials" that were coming their way. The Roman Emperor, Nero, was about to usher in a level of persecution unlike anything the early church had ever experienced.

Four specific instructions are given to believers facing such fiery trials.

- Expect it
- Rejoice in it
- Do some self-examination and continue in obedience
- Commit your souls to God.

25. **THINK:** Why do you think persecution has been greatest against Christians versus other religious sects?

_____

_____

_____

To be honest, the stranger circumstance would be if Christians weren't being persecuted. Satan does not waste his time on the merely religious; he is far more concerned with those who are walking with God in surrendered obedience. These are the ones he wants to silence.

26. Read the following verses and record what you learn about how and why we are to rejoice in times of suffering.

Romans 5:1-2

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_____

Romans 5:3-5

_____

_____

Matthew 5:11-12

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_____

Romans 8:28

_____

_____

27. **THINK:** Read 1 Peter 4:13-14. How can suffering in this way result in fellowship with Christ and being ministered to by the Holy Spirit?

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_____

Those who persecute Christians blaspheme God with their actions, but those who suffer bring glory to Him. No matter what, we can remain steadfast knowing that should we suffer because of our commitment to Jesus, it will never be in vain.

28. Record and consider memorizing 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.

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No matter what comes our way, we can rejoice! We can comfort our troubled hearts with the truth of Jesus Christ. He has given us everlasting comfort and the great hope of eternity with Him.

All suffering should cause us to pause and examine our lives, to ask ourselves, “Why am I suffering?”

29. Read 1 Peter 4:15-16. How can suffering result from our own foolish choices?

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30. **THINK:** Suffering for the cause of Christ requires a three-part strategy if we are to remain steadfast. What are those three parts, and why do you think all three are required? (v. 16, 19)

_____

_____

_____

Commit – to deposit, to entrust, commit to one’s charge, to commend one to another for protection, safety

31. **THINK HARDER:** What do you think it looks like for a believer to commit their soul to God in doing good?

_____

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_____

Jesus suffered for doing good. The end result of His suffering was our salvation.

32. How can our suffering be used for His glory?

_____

_____

A Closer Look at Grumbling

1 Peter 4:9

33. Write out 1 Peter 4:9.

_____

To grumble is the same as to complain, or murmur, or quietly express displeasure. Grumbling shows discontent with life. It is not godly or becoming.

34. What do the following verses teach you about grumbling?

Proverbs 29:11

_____

Philippians 2:14

_____

James 5:9

_____

35. We witness grumbling and complaining in the Old Testament. After the Israelites were led out of slavery in Egypt, they often murmured about their leaders. Read Exodus 16:2-3, Numbers 14:2, and Psalm 106:25, then describe what took place.

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_____

36. Now read Exodus 16:8. Who were they actually complaining about?

_____

One who complains and grumbles is discontent with their lot in life and, therefore, discontent with God. To murmur and complain is to show a lack of gratitude and a distrust of God. It reveals a lack of understanding of who He is and what He has done.

37. What or who makes you grumble?

_____

_____

38. Consider why this person(s) or these circumstances cause you to murmur and complain. Consider God, and all you know of Him. Thank Him for all He has done. How does this change your attitude?

_____

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_____

If grumbling is something you struggle with, the antidote is a grateful heart. Philippians 2:14 instructs us to do **everything** without complaining or disputing, and the surrounding verses give us the solution to the problem of grumbling.

39. What is the truth found in Philippians 2:13, and how can this truth help you?

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40. What is the result of doing everything without complaining, found in Philippians 2:15-16?

_____

_____

Grumbling, complaining, murmuring, and disputing are **not** attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. They are not qualities pleasing to God, nor are they edifying to others.

41. According to the following verses, what are we to do instead?

Ephesians 4:29

_____

1 Thessalonians 5:18

_____

Hebrews 13:5

_____

42. Read Proverbs 21:23. What is our first line of defense against grumbling?

_____

Commit today to holding your tongue before complaints spew forth. Take your problems to the Lord first and trust Him with all of them, never forgetting that He is good and worthy of gratitude!