

"Therefore . . . fix your hope completely." "Therefore . . . hope fully." This word makes Peter's first command dependent on All The Grace he has exulted in for the 12 verses.

V. 1: Since God has chosen you.

V. 3: Since God has caused you to be born again to a living hope.

V. 4: Since God is keeping an inheritance for you imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

V. 5: Since God is protecting you through faith so that you won't lose that inheritance.

V.6-7: Since God is refining your faith by fire so that it will receive praise and glory and honor.

V. 8: Since you are swimming with the strokes of love and faith and joy in Christ.

V.10-13: Since prophets and angels are on tiptoe to see all what God's grace is going to do in your life, THEREFORE, FIX YOUR HOPE FULLY IN THIS GRACE.

Note: The imperatives of Christian living always begin with "therefore." Peter does not begin to exhort Christian pilgrims until he has celebrated the wonders of God's salvation in Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:13 serves as a hinge [hinges help open doors!] to connect:

- I Pet. 1:1-12 assurance of future glory through new birth in Christ with
- I Pet. 1:14-5:11 expectation of righteous behavior in spite of unfair circumstances

Running Our Race of Faith: *I Must Gird Up My Mind To Guard My Hope*

I Pet. 1:13a Wherefore gird up the loins of your MIND,

A. Diligent Mind: I Pet. 1:13a Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind,

[Remove anything that will impair your spiritual growth or progress; Prepare Your Minds For Action; roll up the sleeves of your mind; Mindset: Prepare to engage in a battle or race]

"Pull your thoughts together! Have a disciplined mind!" The image is that of a robed man, tucking his skirts under the belt, so he can be free to run. When you center your thoughts on the return of Christ and live accordingly, you escape the many worldly things that would encumber your mind and hinder your spiritual progress.

B. Readiness For Action is seen in virtually every other instance of the expression.

a. I Kings 18:46 Elijah girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

b. II Kings 4:29 Gehazi was told by Elisha to gird up his loins, take Elisha's staff and hurry to the Shunammite's son who had died.

C. Girding Your Loins: Includes Courage & Resolve

Jeremiah was commanded to gird up his loins and prophesy. It was not an easy task and would bring persecution.

Jer. 1:17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

Job 38:3-5 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee and answer thou me.

⁴ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?
declare, if thou hast understanding.

⁵ Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Job 40:7-8 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will question you and you tell me the answers.

"Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

Luke 12:35-40 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

1. Girding up the loins of the mind corrects a too casual attitude toward the Lord's coming which will prevent us from being caught unaware and unprepared at His coming.
2. Our attitude determines our action. A Christian who is looking for the return of Jesus Christ has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who ignores the Lord's return. [Titus 2:13]

Spurgeon: This is Peter's practical application of the great truths of which he had been writing. "Look ahead and expect great things. Live in the future. Project your thoughts beyond the centuries that are passing away into the ages which will never die. Pull yourself together; be not mentally and spiritually in dishabille [state of being dressed in a casual or careless style; deliberately careless or casual manner] but, be girt ready for holy running. Gird up the loins of your mind. Be ready to depart to your inheritance. Do not let your garments flow carelessly and loosely, as though you had no journey before you, but gird up the loins of your mind."

Our Race of Faith: *I Must Gird Up My Mind, Be Sober, To Guard My Hope*

I Pet. 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,

Sober: to be calm, steadfast, self-controlled, clarity of mind, moral decisiveness

Sober Mind: Remove anything that would hinder your spiritual growth and obedience.

cause you to trip up

Clear, focused mind on the task that is set before me; not numb with intoxicating influences.

Why do we need to keep sober? Our old nature continually desires to rule and reign [Rom. 6:12]

Our adversary prowls around continually and "doth seek to devour us." [I Pet. 5:8].

Without sobriety vigilance is impossible.

Ex. 12:9 Eat The Whole Lamb: Head

I Cor. 1:24 Christ the power of God, and the Wisdom Of God.

- Christians must feed on the mind of Jesus Christ.

Rom. 12:2a And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, [Also see: Eph. 4:21-23; Heb. 8:10]

I Cor. 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

We have the "mind of Christ" and yet Phil. 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: We are to have what we already have, which is not a contradiction, but rather a call to continuing transformation so that we will little by little move from the caterpillars we are to the butterflies God wants us to be.

This isn't instant or automatic, but since it is God's desire, having a transformed mind is within the reach of every believer.....

- It will not happen by accident.
- It does not happen overnight.
- It cannot happen without the Holy Spirit.
- It happens when we make a personal commitment.

Wiersbe: To "have the mind of Christ":

- To look at life from the Savior's point of view, having His values and desires in mind.
- We have the ability from God to estimate the true value of things.
- Having the mind of Christ enables us to see life increasingly from God's perspective.

Obey Paul's command in Col. 3:16 [present imperative = this is to be our habitual practice!]

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

"Lord, open the eyes of my heart so that I will know you better.

Renew my mind so that I will estimate the true value of everything in the light of eternity."

Running Our Race of Faith: I Must Gird Up My Mind To Guard My Hope

I Pet. 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end

for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

C. Fix your hope steadfastly on the end of the race: Motivated by the sure goal of future grace. An action you do with your mind and your heart. It's a command to hope.

Note: Girding up the loins of my mind and being sober are the means to the end - HOPE FULLY

1. What is the object of my hope? The Grace of God

"Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Grace is on the way. Hope in it fully! Hope fully in God's grace.

D. God's Command and Delight: Hope in God

Ps. 147:10-11 He delights not in the strength of the horse: He takes not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.

God's command and delight is not first what you can perform for Him with your strength.

It is first that you hope in what He can perform for you with His strength.

Let your whole soul be engaged in hope. Don't be partially hoping and partially doubting.

Let grace get all the glory! Show the world that grace is all-satisfying. It will meet every need.

Turn the robes of your mind into running shorts. Girding the mind is a means to hoping fully in grace. What is the mind to be doing so actively that it produces hope? The answer is TRUTH. Hope happens when our minds are girded up with truth, and active in truth.

Eph. 6:14a Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with TRUTH,

II. Eat The Lamb With Shoes On Your Feet.

Speaks of our walk with God. Walk in the deliverance before you.

Watchman Nee: Once the blood is applied and the flesh eaten, one becomes a sojourner, and he must leave Egypt. Prepare to take the journey: to take their sojourning way. Once we are born again and begin to feast on God's Word, He will not allow us to remain in Egypt

How The LORD Frees Us From Bondage: Put Your Shoes On

Acts 12:7-8 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly.

And his Chains Fell Off From His Hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself and bind on thy sandals. And so he did.

And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Ephesians 6:15 "And your feet shod with the preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness] of the gospel of peace,"
The term "shod" [Greek, u`podeomai, hupodeo] means to underbind, to bind under oneself, or to bind on. It is a call to action.

Our journey is a spiritual battle; we can't walk into battle unprepared and barefoot.

Being Ready: Comes from the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which gives the peace of God. Apostle Paul thinks this peace is like the heavy hob-nailed boots that the legionaries wore, by which they could stand firm, whatever came against them.

- The Gospel is a peace-bringing power in the warfare; causes us to stand firm.
- The Gospel of peace in our hearts will prepare us for the journey.

Consider: Troubled hearts cannot focus on the task because much of their energy is taken up in steadying or quieting themselves or is dissipated in going after a hundred other things.

- The steam engine is said to be a very imperfect machine which wastes more power than it utilizes.
- True with many Christians: They possess the POWER, but do not rest in the peace and tranquility of God. They waste much of the power that is theirs.
- A peaceful heart makes us ready for duty: Steadfast, unmovable.
 - Unless my footing is firm, I will be tumbled over by the onset of an unexpected circumstance or trial. The sudden assaults can work disastrously against us.
- "Gospel shoes" allow us to stand when we face the difficult circumstances.

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. [shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.]

Command: Bind On The Shoes: Soaking our minds and hearts in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep near Jesus Christ from whom all the fullness of the spiritual life flows. If my vessel is full of Him, I will realize the fulfillment of the promise: "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved."

Ex. 12:9 Eat The Whole Lamb: Legs of The Lamb: Speak of Our Walk

Col. 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

II Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight:

[Also see: Gal. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; Eph. 5:2, 8; Col. 1:10; Col. 4:5; I Thess. 4:1; I John 1:7;

II John 1:6; III John 1:4]

Ex. 12:9 Eat The Whole Lamb: Head, Legs & Inward Parts.

We must take Christ in His entirety: The Complete Word Of God

Inward Parts Of The Lamb

Phil. 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

➤ Affection; tender mercies; compassion

➤ It is possible to have others in our minds without really having them in our hearts.

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

How did Paul evidence his love for them? He was suffering on their behalf. His bonds were proof of his love. He was "the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles" [Eph. 3:1].

Paul's love was not something he merely talked about; it was something he practiced. He considered his difficult circumstances an opportunity for defending and confirming the gospel. This would help his brethren everywhere.

Paul's actions: I love you with that same kind of tender concern with which Christ loved the world when he gave himself for it" Evidence of Paul's feeling:

Phil. 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

Paul longed for his friends "in the bowels [love] of Jesus Christ." It was not Paul's love channeled through Christ; it was Christ's love channeled through Paul.

How can we learn to practice this kind of love? Christian love is not something we work up.

It is something that God does in us and through us.

Rom. 5:5 the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

When we permit God to perform His "good work" in us, then we grow in our love for one another.

What is the evidence we are truly bound in love to other Christians?

1. We are concerned about them. The believers at Philippi were concerned about Paul and sent Epaphroditus to minister to him.

I John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

2. Christian love is a willingness to forgive one another.

I Pet. 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity [love] among yourselves:
for charity [love] shall cover the multitude of sins.

I Cor. 13:5 Love keeps no record of wrongs.

The children of Israel had three main stages of eating:

1. Eating the Passover in Egypt for them to be strengthened to get out of Egypt.
 - They ate the entire lamb - every part, along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
 - Eat the whole lamb: His wisdom, His activity and His mind, emotion, will and heart.
2. Eating the manna in the wilderness
 - God's intention was to change their constitution by changing their diet. [Ex. 16:14-15]
 - The children of Israel were not Egyptians, but in their nature, they did not differ from the Egyptians in the least.
 - Egyptian diet denotes all the things we desire to feed on to find satisfaction.
 - God wanted His redeemed people to forget the Egyptian diet and partake of heavenly food. [Deut. 8:3]
3. Eating the produce of the good land on which they had to labor to be the overcomers.
 - This good land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive trees with oil, honey represent the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. [Deut. 8:8; Eph. 3:8]
 - By enjoying the riches of the good land, the people of Israel could conquer and overcome the tribes in the land.

This rich produce is nothing else but Christ, the all-inclusive Christ, who is the consummated life supply given to us, the believers in Christ; such a One requires us to labor on Him.

In our Christian life, there are at least three stages of eating, corresponding to the picture seen with the people of Israel's eating:

1. Eating Christ as our Passover.
2. Eating Christ as our heavenly food to be reconstituted with Him.
3. Eating Him as the rich produce of the good land to become His overcomers.

This rich produce is nothing else but Christ, the all-inclusive Christ, who is the consummated life supply given to us.

Col. 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Problem: There are MANY believers who have experienced Passover but did not begin to "Feed on Christ." They can be called: A Passover Christian.

Question: When was the Feast of Unleavened Bread to begin? Immediately after Passover!

1. You are now born again. It is time to get the sin, leaven, out of your life.

2. Sanctification [setting apart; growing in Christ] was to start then -----not years later!

I am a testimony of the experience of wasted years. After justification, the flesh was waiting to attack and start me on a mindset of "working hard for Jesus" and a treadmill of performance to be like Jesus.

Consider: What can the wasted years look like? Active in church; teaching Sunday School; Playing the Piano; Working in VBS; Going on Outreach; etc. --- feeling guilty because I felt like a failure even though I was trying hard. Burnout -- then rededicate --- failure---rededicate!!!

I did not understand the significance of "getting into the Feast of Unleavened Bread."

I understood: Work for the Lord and try real hard not to sin and be like Jesus.

This WILL NOT WORK! God never told His people to TRY REAL HARD to be like Him.

He tells us to present a blood sacrifice, Jesus, for our Justification AND our Sanctification.

Where is the abundant life? It is found by keeping The Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Truth: Passover is not a camping ground. It is the BEGINNING of a journey as a pilgrim.

Christ is our Passover: He is the Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world and becoming our Life Supply for us to fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

We must feed on Christ to have strength for our daily pilgrim journey.

As we worship, meditate on the Word, pray and surrender, we appropriate the spiritual nourishment of Jesus Christ and grow in grace and knowledge.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Stay Hungry!