

Chico Alliance Church

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“Guaranteed Glorious Inheritance”

Part 2

Introduction

Last week we kind of just got started exploring the reality of our future glorious inheritance. It is not streets of gold or a mansion or a garden. It has to do with the completion of our salvation. Today we only experience a portion of what is to come. Peter urges us to fix our mind on that glorious day when we will be fully transformed body, soul and spirit in the likeness of our perfect Savior.

“Fix your eyes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

In a nut shell Peter intends us to understand that...

A clear focus on our future ultimate transformation motives faithfulness in our present walk.

Peter described that transformation in the first chapter of his first book.

Peter encouraged the elect (chosen ones) to bless God for His past, present and future blessing.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen. 1 Peter 1:3-12

On the basis of God's great mercy, He caused a new birth through Christ's resurrection which inspired a day to day (living) hope or confidence with a view to a future inheritance secured in heaven for us who God protects until the day we realize that inheritance. Jesus prayed for the protection of His followers.

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. John 17:9-11

Such a living hope inspired present rejoicing even in the midst of severe struggle. In spite of that struggle and lack of any physical relationship with Jesus in the past or present, the followers of Jesus demonstrate love and faith in Him. The wonder and mystery of this ultimate transformation or inheritance which Peter then identified as salvation, was the object of Angel's wonder and prophet's inquiry. On the basis of a greater understanding of our future transformation, Peter urged the readers to respond accordingly.

A clear focus on our ultimate future transformation motives faithfulness in our present walk.

- **Having a focused and sober mind, fix your hope on the future inheritance.**

Therefore, having prepared your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

Keep a clear focus on what is to come. There is a future work yet to be revealed at the coming of Jesus. Peter employed two present participles in this verse that come before the main command. The Spirit of God indicates that before one can carry out the main command, two things must take place in the mind or one's thinking and understanding.

Having prepared your minds... (point time action)

The literal translation reads, “having girded up the loins of your mind”. In order to engage in strenuous exercise or prepare for battle, the men would need to gather up the long clothes that would present a tripping hazard. They would do that with a belt around the waist. Paul referred to this action when he talked about the belt of truth. The English equivalent of this ancient figure of speech would be “to roll up your sleeves or take off one’s jacket.”

In order to get a firm grasp of our future inheritance, we need to ready our thinking. Our culture has sufficiently dulled our thinking capacities. Everything is dumbed down to the lowest common denominator. Peter employed an interesting figure “loins of your mind” as if referring to a particular non-physical aspect of our thinking as opposed to some other physical aspect. It was not uncommon to associate a physical attribute to a mental one. Paul spoke of the “eyes of our heart”.

Reference to “loins” was physical and symbolic. It was used in reference to physically clothing the loins or hip area. Strengthen the loins was used in reference to be ready for battle. To make one’s loins shake was to render someone helpless. It also was used to refer to one’s procreative powers. So, Peter’s reference to girding up the “loins of the mind” would denote strengthening the central productive part of the thinking that enables strong logic that in turn yields wise life choices.

The second qualifying participle also has to do with the thinking. “being sober”. This is just what it means; to not be dulled by alcohol. Peter used a present tense participle indicating a continuous state of mind. Scripture repeatedly addressed sobriety in a culture that regularly abused alcohol to escape the hardships of life and even get in touch with empowering spirits. (See Digging Deeper notes).

Peter called for clear and uncluttered thinking. Be prepared to think strategically about the future in face of present struggle. Keep your thinking clear of outside influence whether spiritual or physical.

Peter later calls for sobriety in regard to spiritual warfare.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Paul urged a clarity achieved by the control of the Holy Spirit.

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk (dulled) with wine, for that is indulgence, but be filled (controlled) with the Spirit... Ephesians 5:17-18

Now having strengthened your mind for engaging a dark world...

Keeping your thinking clear and free from any dulling influences...

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

Fix your hope “fully” on your future ultimate transformation. No matter what happens in the present, keep focused on what is coming.

“fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13

Literally it would read “completely hope in or on the grace to be brought”. The term “completely” means to hope without wavering, hope to the end. The verb translated “hope” means to confidently trust, anticipate, expect.

Don’t put your confidence in the present circumstances; they may not change. Look to something in the future. Anticipate a future event to take place at the revelation of Jesus Christ. In this case Peter refers to the “grace being brought to you”.

“Being brought to you”

Peter used a passive verb indicating something done for us or to us. In this case Jesus Christ brings with Him a further act of “grace” or gift when He comes.

In this context, this grace has to do with our ultimate transformation or sometimes referred to as “glorification.”

This is similar to Paul’s instruction to keep our thinking fixed on eternal things.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory (the grace to be brought to us). Colossians 3:1-4

This concentrated focus enables one to persevere in the present in a broken and dark world.

Do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. Hebrews 10:35-36

Paul, who was familiar with severe testing of his faith, practiced this.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (at the revelation of Jesus Christ). Rom 8:18

He expanded on that glorious future.

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. Rom 8:19-25

We don’t lose heart. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day. Our temporary minor problems are producing an eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison. We don’t focus on the things that can be seen but on the things that can’t be seen. The things that can be seen don’t last, but the things that can’t be seen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

What is this glory? Not stuff; it is our ultimate transformation for which the entire creation longs.

Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Philippians 3:20-21

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 1 John 3:2

Many of us could endure suffering if we only understood our future glory. Many endured severe torture and suffering by a strong confidence in future glory.

The next response to this secure inheritance seems to be a “no brainer”.

- **Live holy like your Father who called you and caused you to be born again knowing how much it cost to offer such a glorious inheritance.**

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 1:14-21

God called us to be like Jesus. Christ-likeness is our ultimate destiny.

Those whom God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers (just like Him). Romans 8:29

That is what God is constantly working toward in every believer now.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13

Cooperate with Him. Be an obedient child. Purify yourselves. Remember who your new Dad is. If you are going to call God your father, then respond to Him as one. Resolve to be like your Dad remembering just what it cost Him to bring you into His family and ultimately make you to be like Jesus.

Our destiny is unhindered fellowship with God.

What agreement has the temple (people) of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

The very next verse says this.

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1
As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.*

It follows then that having been brought into God's family you would have a special love for and connection with everyone else brought into the family.

- **Sincerely love your siblings.**

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:22-25

If God is your Dad, it follows that anyone else He invites into His family is your sibling.

God has already done such a work in your life that enables you to sincerely love one another from the heart.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20

This ability to love is based on the fact that you have been renewed, born again, purified by the abiding life-transforming word of God.

That word not only is the cause of our rebirth but our continual growth as well.

- **Long for the life-giving word of God so that you can grow up into this salvation.**

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:1-3

If you are to continually grow in this salvation that God is working out in your life, you must maintain a longing for His word. The word used here means "to intensely crave, greatly desire, long for, yearn for" God's inspired words to you. Long to understand His instruction and loving, life-giving communication.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24

So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. John 6:67-68

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. John 6:63

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32

This natural longing can be deadened. All babies come with a natural longing for milk. Just remember the response when that longing went unfulfilled. The only time that longing wasn't present is when sickness or

trauma interfered. That same longing for spiritual nourishment comes natural to every genuine believer UNTIL, something interferes. Self-centeredness interferes with that natural hunger for the word of God resulting relational disasters. Peter instructs the people to deal with all traces of garbage before they can restore a natural hunger for the word. "Putting away, casting off, laying aside". The list includes all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all evil talk. James wrote something along the same lines.

Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, having put aside all filthiness and abundance of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. James 1:19-21

When we approach God's word without dealing with any self-centered fleshly issues still unaddressed in our life, it affects our understanding and application of the Word. We will approach it as an instrument to be used about or against others rather than a means to expose and expel our own issues. James followed his admonition with a further admonition to not only hear but do.

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. James 1:22

We must not neglect regular interaction with the word but long for it. We must not neglect practicing what we hear but do it.

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. Jam 1:23-25

Any attempt to address a lack of spiritual growth MUST begin with my relationship with the word.

Jesus cleanses us with the word of God.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27

There is no cleansing if I reject Jesus' "soap". There can be no spiritual growth without assimilating God's spiritual nutrients any more than physical growth without ingesting physical nutrients. In light of our glorious future transformation, Peter instructs us to fix our hope on our ultimate transformation, strive to be like Jesus, sincerely love our siblings and intensely crave the Word of God essential for spiritual growth and enables us to experience God's goodness.

A clear focus on our ultimate future transformation motives faithfulness and growth in our present walk.

This amazing transformation is secure. This future glorious transformation enables us to rise above present tribulation. This future ultimate transformation was anticipated by the prophets and angels. Intentional and sober thoughts focused on this promised transformation motivate daily hope, holy living, sincere love and a consistent hunger to know more about the God who promised it.

What will this moment of transformation be like?

"The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:45-58

Along with fixing your hope on the grace to be revealed at the revelation of Jesus, Heed Paul's admonition to the Corinthians.

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...

Knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Knowing your ultimate glorification is coming.

Knowing the great personal cost the Trinity paid to make it all possible.

Like the original readers...

Bless God who blesses you.

Greatly rejoice in spite of present testing by fire.

Love Him, though you have never seen Him

Believe in Him, though you do actually not see Him even now,

Rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, continually receiving as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Let contemplation of your glorious secure inheritance motivate faithfulness in your daily life.

DIGGING DEEPER – 1 Peter 1

DAY ONE

I'm back! I am sure you have gotten along without this for a couple weeks. My hope is that these suggestion for five appointments with God during the week centered on the Sunday message are of help in you walk.

Today, I suggest a chat with God inspired by Psalm 25.

Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day. Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your lovingkindness remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore You instruct sinners in the way. You lead the humble in justice, and You teach the humble Your way. All your paths are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep Your covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. (Take a moment to specify any particular sins that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.) Who is the man who fears the LORD? You will instruct him in the way he should choose. Psalm 25:4-12
Lord, show me Your ways today.

Either review the notes or read 1 Peter 1 a couple times (or both). Listen for any “nudging” by the Holy Spirit. Are there any specific thoughts that come to mind you would like to follow up on?

Here is a pray to put on God's armor.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, Ephesians 6:10-18

Father, I understand that I cannot stand against Satan's attacks without Your armor. It is Your armor and not mine. It is Your truth and not my thoughts. It is Your wisdom and not my reasoning. It is Your work and not my words. I take a stand today against all of Satan's attempts to get me to live apart from intimate connection with you.

Belt of TRUTH

Affirmation

Your word is truth.

You are the way the TRUTH and the life.

When your words abide in me I will know the truth and the truth will set me free. John

When your truth does not abide in me I will live in bondage to Satan's lies.

I am transformed with the renewing of my mind with TRUTH.

Right thinking promotes godly living.

Truth destroys Satan's fortresses.

Application

I desire to know truth and to live truth. The ultimate discernment of true reality can only come from your enlightenment. I want your words to abide in me so that I can know your truth and live in your freedom.

It is your truth that transforms every area of my life. I want to know your truth so well that any deviation will be absolutely clear. I refuse all of Satan's lies and embrace your truth as the only way. I resist any and all of Satan's attempts to deceive me, derail me, trick me or trap me. Give me a new hunger to know your word and to live it. Help me to take every thought captive and compare it to what you have clearly taught. Help me to tear down every fortress the enemy has in my life because of believing lies. I want to know the truth about you. I want to know the truth about my enemy. I want to know the truth about myself. I refuse to be deceived. I no longer want to be in denial about the reality of my own walk with you. I commit to pursuing and practicing your truth. I prepare for battle by putting on his belt of truth.

Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

Affirmation

I have NO righteousness apart from You.

My good deeds are as filthy rags to You. Isa 64:6

I have not and cannot live up to Your standard. Rom 3:23

Without Your righteousness I will NEVER enter Your righteous kingdom.

Jesus became sin in my place even though He Himself NEVER sinned that I might become righteous even though I ALWAYS sin. 2 Cor 5:21

Through Adam's one act of disobedience sin entered a righteous race. Rom 5

Through Christ's one act of obedience righteousness entered a sinful race. Rom 5

Relationship with You is possible through the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to my history.

There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Rom 5:1

This right standing has NOTHING to do with my works; it was granted by Jesus out of belief in His work.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne.

Jesus died that I might be forgiven. Jesus was raised that I might become righteous.

Confession of my sin brings forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

The work God started will continually be perfected until Jesus returns. Phil 1:6

Application

With these affirmations I have agreed with you concerning the hopelessness enjoying relationship with you without a transforming touch from you. There's no doubt that my deeds could make up for my continual deviations from your law. Therefore I am extremely grateful that by your grace I can enjoy a relationship with you because Jesus has gifted his very own righteousness, his eternal goodness to be the standard by which I am now judged. I embrace his righteousness not my own. I stand in his standing not anything in me. There is therefore now no condemnation from you only compassion. There is no judgment, only justification. There is no room for my pride. There is no fear of your condemnation. I refuse any attempts of the enemy to lure me into self-righteousness. I refuse any attempts of the enemy to lure me into self-condemnation. I demolished the barriers the enemy tries to put between us. I refuse the accusations the enemy attempts to discourage. I will eternally be grateful that you allowed your son who knew no sin to become sin for me so that I who knew no righteousness could become the righteousness of God in him. That fact encourages me to live righteously in this life. I joyfully put on the breastplate of Christ's righteousness.

Shoes of PEACE

Affirmation

Peace means to join or tie together into a whole; to restore what has been torn apart.
Because Jesus granted His righteousness to me, I have peace with You. Rom 5
Through Him I have I have obtained access by faith into this grace in which I NOW stand. Rom 5
Jesus Himself is my peace.
Jesus made peace.
Jesus preached peace.
Jesus granted peace to me; a peace like nothing the world can give.
Jesus provides peace with God.
Jesus provides inner wholeness.
Jesus provides community wholeness.
Living according to the flesh results in chaos. James 4
Living according to the Spirit results in peace in all realms of life.
God gives peace when my mind is focuses on Him. Isa 26:3-4
God promises peace in every circumstance. 2 Thes 3:16
God blesses His people with peace. Psalm 29:11
The results of one living by the power the Spirit is peace. Gal 5:22
Peace comes from an increasing knowledge of Jesus. 2 Pet 1:2-3
Peace comes as we pray about everything. Philip 4:6-7

Application

In this world of chaos and fear I need your peace. Everything the enemy touches promotes disorder of every kind and chaos at every level. I long for peace with you. I long for peace within. I long for peace with others. I'm grateful that Jesus is the Prince of peace who can defeat the chaos of the Prince of this world. I embrace the peace that Jesus promises with you, within and with others. When I become anxious let me know your peace. Read become fearful let me know your peace. When everything seems to be falling apart may I know your peace in every circumstance. Help me not to be anxious for anything but in everything by prayer and supplication bring my requests to you so that I may experience the peace that will guard my thinking and my feelings. May I live according to your word so that I may recognize the God of peace is always with me. I refuse the enemy's manipulation of my thoughts and emotions. I stand against the chaos he tries to bring into my life and the life of my family. I acknowledge my tendency to try to control life and protect myself from pain. I purpose to rest in you and to find my strength in you. I strap on the sandals of the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Shield of FAITH

Affirmation

Without faith there is no salvation. (Gal 3, John 1:9)
Without it there is no spiritual growth. (Gal 3)
Without it you cannot please God and actually stir His wrath. (Heb 11)
Without it there is no true peace and rest. (Heb 3-4)
Without it there is no spiritual life. (Gal 2:20)
Without it there is no victory. (1 John 5:4)
Without it there is no endurance. (Heb 11)

Without it there is no answered prayer. (James 2)
Without it God views our self-effort as sin. (Rom 14:23)
Without it there is no hope, joy or peace. (Rom 15:13)
Without it we are unprotected and vulnerable (1 Pet 1:5; 2 Tim 1:12; Eph 6)

Faith is the gift of God's implanted persuasion to believe that He is able to bring about in my life what He has spoken to my spirit.

God speaks to my spirit in order to encourage me to embrace and live by his direction.

He persuades me to embrace the fact that Jesus is the only way to God. (Saving faith)

He persuades me to trust in him for everyday life. (Living faith)

He persuades me to move forward in the face of impossible odds. (Conquering faith)

He persuades me to remain faithful in the face of unbearable circumstances. (Enduring faith).

Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the voice of God.

The life that I now live on this Earth, I live by the continual persuasion of Christ who loved me and gave himself for me.

Application

I affirm and embrace all of your truth is the foundation of true life. I refuse to put my faith in human wisdom, strength, or ingenuity. Rather, I choose to trust in the name of the Lord my God. I choose to trust you even though the enemy tries to cause doubt. I choose to trust you in spite of the circumstances that I face. I choose to trust you when I can't see my way. I choose to trust you when it's dark. I choose to trust you when I'm weak. In the times that I can't figure out what you're doing, I choose to trust your heart. I choose to rest the fact that you love me. I choose to trust the fact that you work all things good and bad together for my good in your glory. I believe! I trust you! I know that those who trust you will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get weary. They will walk and not faint. Help me to have ears to hear. Help me to recognize your voice. Help me to act upon the promptings of your spirit to my heart. Your word never fails. You never fail. I choose to trust in the promises that you have clearly declared and I affirm the fact that what you promise you produce. I raise the shield of faith.

Helmet of SALVATION

Affirmation

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.

I affirm that I was totally lost and in the dark.

I affirm that you have by grace transferred me from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of your beloved son.

I affirm that Jesus died because of my sin.

I affirm that because of his death I am alive today.

He has saved me.

He has redeemed me.

He has put me in right standing with God.

He has made it possible for a sinful person to be reconciled to a holy God.

He who began this good work in me will continue that work my whole life to Jesus returns.

I am no longer a sinner but a saint who for now continues to sin.

My identity is a son of God.

Because I am in Christ I am a new creation all the old things are passed away and I have become new.

I am his workmanship instantaneously created in Christ Jesus to live differently according to his ways.

I am a precious gift from the father to his son who promises never to cast me out or reject me, or lose me.

Application

I refuse the enemy's attempt to convince me I need to work for my deliverance. I refuse to doubt the savior's ability to actually save me. I embrace the eternal life promised the moment that I put my full trust in Christ. The moment I trust him I was saved. Through the work of the Holy Spirit I am continually being saved. I will ultimately be completely saved by the soul and spirit at the return of Jesus Christ in glory. For now my life is hidden with Christ in God but when Christ is revealed I to the along with all believers will be revealed in glory. I no longer fear death because Jesus destroyed him who had the power of death that is the devil. I purpose to not work for but work out the salvation that he has worked in so that I may bring glory and honor to the one who gave his life for me. I will not sin just because I am saved, I choose not to sin because I am eternally saved. I rest today in the work of Christ on my behalf. I trust in his word not my works. Even when I don't feel saved I embrace my salvation. Even when life seems dark I trust his salvation. Even when the enemy seems to have gained footholds in my life, I will trust in his salvation. I embrace all the things that happened the moment that I put my trust in him. I look forward to all of the evidences of his continual work in my life. I fixed my eyes on the grace to be brought to me at the revelation of Jesus Christ. I put on the helmet of salvation

Sword of the Spirit = the WORD of God

Affirmation

Your Word is quick and powerful and sharper than the two edged sword. At Your word the enemy must bow in defeat. At Your word the world and everything it came into being. At Your word the universe holds together. At Your word kings rise up and fall in defeat. At Your word Satan and all his sorry soldiers will be thrown into the lake of fire where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever!! Your word releases blessing into my life. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from Your mouth.

Application

Father, I choose this day to look to Your word for my protection and life and weapon against the attacks of the enemy. I can only stand by the appropriate use of Your word against the lies of the devil. Stir a new hunger to know Your truth so that I may speak truth against the enemy. I want to be able to say, "It is written!"

I clothe myself with Christ today; His truth, His peace, His righteousness, His faith, His Salvation, and His word. I affirm and apply these truths by continual persevering prayer not only for myself but for the entire family of God.

DAY TWO

Good morning! If you don't have a special place for interacting with God, visualize one. Think about a place that is quiet and peaceful and undisturbed. i.e. meadow, ocean front, by the fire. Now think about Jesus coming into the room and sitting down for a chat. What do you want to say to Him? What would He say to you? Now listen to Jesus's teaching from the word.

Jesus revealed the concept of a spiritual birth to Nicodemus. It would be helpful to review that conversation. Read John 3 and enter into the scene.

Nicodemus should have been aware of Jeremiah's prediction of new birth.

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." Jeremiah 31:31-34

Heart change!

Review the basis of our regeneration from the 1 Peter passage.

Paul addressed this amazing work of God in the core of our being.

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

1 Peter 1:23 includes another aspect of the "new birth".

Review 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, he (the one in Christ) has become new.

Paul used a perfect tense verb indicating an event at a point in time with continuing effect.

"He has become and STILL IS new."

We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Eph 2:10

Take some time to reflect on this phenomenal work of God in the core of our being.

DAY THREE

Open today's conversation with thoughts from yesterday's Titus 3:3-7 passage.

I have been foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending my life in malice and envy, hateful, hating others. But Savior, Your kindness and love for mankind appeared, You saved me, not on the basis of deeds which I had done in righteousness, but according to Your mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by Your Holy Spirit, whom You poured out richly upon me through Jesus Christ my Savior, so that being justified by Your grace I would be made an heir according to the hope of eternal life.

Take some time to reflect and offer thanksgiving for His grace to you.

Work backwards. Start with the description of this glorious event from 1 Cor 15:50-58.

Visualize that moment and then put yourself in the picture.

The New Testament references this moment numerous times. Following are some of them.

Reflect on that glorious future moment.

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 1 Peter 1:7

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 1 Peter 4:12-13

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:31-46

These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:9-12

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. Revelation 1:7

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about

at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. 1 Timothy 6:13-16

Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 2 Peter 3:11-14

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. Hebrews 9:26-28

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:4

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. 1 John 2:28

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Are you ready for that moment?

Take some time to think about what it will be like.

DAY FOUR

Remember who you serve. Begin today affirming the majesty of Jesus from Col 1.

Lord God, You rescued me from the domain of darkness, and transferred me to the kingdom of Your beloved Son, in whom I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Jesus, You are the image of Your invisible Father, the firstborn of all creation. For by You all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through You and for You. You are before all things, and in You all things hold together. You are also head of the body, the church; and You are the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that You Yourself will come to have first place in everything. For it was Your Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in You, and through You to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of Your cross; through You, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although I was formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet You have now reconciled me in Your fleshly body through death, in order to present me before Your Father holy and blameless and beyond reproach— Colossians 1:13-22 HALLELUJAH! THANK YOU!!!

We are to fix our hope on the most glorious day. Reread the notes and verses. In order to fully derive the benefit of this truth we must keep our thinking straight.

Several other verses call for sobriety and clear thinking. As promised, here a few of them to contemplate.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. 1 Corinthians 15:33-34

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:3-5

The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 1 Peter 4:7

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:8-11

In light of our ultimate destiny, Peter called for us to live a new life style.

If you claim to be God's son, ACT LIKE IT!

In most of the passages that describe Christ's coming, it also includes an admonition to holy living.

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 2 Peter 3:14

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. Philippians 3:17-21

To many, we will rejoice with exaltation at His coming.

Others will shrink away in shame at His coming.

DAY FIVE

Review the notes on the other responses to fixing our hope on the grace to be brought.

Love your siblings.

Long for the word.

The Jews addressed in the book of Hebrews were experiencing intense suffering and tribulation. In fact the book was written to encourage them not to give up their trust in Christ. They endured by contemplating those who had endured. Those who had endured did so by a firm belief in future glory.

By faith Abraham lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:9-10

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:13-16

So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come. Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:13-16

Our inheritance of ultimate salvation is monumental and essential but along with that comes much more as we become heirs along with Jesus.

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. Romans 8:14-17

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. Galatians 3:26-29

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:6-7

The Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, Ephesians 3:6

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? James 2:5

If you have extra time this week I suggest a great study in Psalm 119. This whole Psalm focuses on the wonder of God's word. Every phrase has something to say about God's word. I suggest making four columns on a piece of paper. Label the first column "What the word is". Label the second column "What the Word does". Label the third column "Responses to the Word" Label the fourth column "Prayers concerning the Word". Have fun!

Here are some great hymn lyrics that express the wonder of our inheritance.

O, That Will Be Glory

Verse 1

When all my labors and trials are o'er and I am safe on that beautiful shore
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore will through the ages be glory for me

Chorus 1

O that will be glory for me Glory for me glory for me

When by His grace I shall look on His face that will be glory be glory for me

Verse 2

When by the gift of His infinite grace I am accorded in heaven a place
Just to be there and to look on His face will through the ages be glory for me

Verse 3

Friends will be there I have loved long ago Joy like a river around me will flow
Yet just a smile from my Savior I know will through the ages be glory for me

WHEN WE SEE CHRIST

Verse 1

Oft times the day seems long Our trials hard to bear We're tempted to complain To murmur and despair
But Christ will soon appear To catch His bride away All tears forever over In God's eternal day

Chorus 1

It will be worth it all When we see Jesus Life's trials will seem so small When we see Christ

One glimpse of His dear face All sorrow will erase So bravely run the race 'Til we see Christ

Verse 2

Sometimes the sky looks dark With not a ray of light We're tossed and driven on No human help in sight
But there is One in heav'n Who knows our deepest care Let Jesus solve your problems Just go to Him in prayer

Verse 3

Life's day will soon be o'er All storms forever past We'll cross the great divide To glory safe at last
We'll share the joys of heav'n new life a home a crown the tempter will be banished we'll lay our burden down