

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

DEALING WITH FEAR: 1 Peter 1:17-21

LOOK AT 1:17

In 1:17, what two descriptions of God are given?

Look up the following verses and note which of these two descriptions they reinforce.

- Matthew 25:31-46
- Luke 15:11-32

What do you think Peter means by “conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile” ? Fear of whom?

As “exiles” with fears, Peter is saying to replace those fears with the fear of the Lord. Have you ever thought of displacing your fears with a healthier fear of the Lord?

Look up the following verses and note what they teach about fear:

- Proverbs 1:7
- Proverbs 9:10
- Proverbs 14:26-27
- Proverbs 29:25
- Luke 12:4- 7
- Luke 12:27-34

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LOOK AT MARK 4:35-41

What emotion in the disciples did Jesus address in v. 40?

Knowing Jesus in the Gospels, is there ever an incident or an impression that Jesus doesn't care about the disciples?

Were the disciples right in accusing Jesus of not caring?

If Jesus both cares and has the power that "even the wind and the sea obey him" what comfort should this bring?

When fears creep in which do you most readily doubt His care or his power?

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LOOK AT 1:18-19

When Peter says “knowing” at the beginning of v. 18 he’s instructing them to understand why they should fear the Lord. Did you expect that God’s mighty love in Jesus Christ would be the reason for fearing him?

What does God’s mighty love “ransom” you from according to v. 18?

Is there anything worse than the “futile ways” that we had before Christ (remember we described this phrase as an “empty life” or a “hopeless life” with out a future)?

By what means does God “ransom” you according to v. 19?

How does the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ compare with the silver and gold of v. 18? (Hint: silver and gold in v. 18 is described as “perishable”)

Which would you rather have the perishable or the imperishable?

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LOOK AT 1:20-21

List Everything Peter tells you is true about Christ in these two verses. (NOTE: The term Christ means *the anointed one* and designates the historical person named Jesus as more than just a man. It designates Him as the Messiah foretold of in the Old Testament.

Who is the “who” in the phrase “who through him are believers in God”?

Because of Christ’s work on their behalf what do believers have according to the end of v. 21?

In 1 Peter “hope” is the future aspect of God’s promises. He describes this hope in 1:3-9. How does it compare to the futile ways/empty life/hopelessness described in v. 18?

Can any present or future fear take that hope away according to these passages?