

1 Peter Series “Living With The End In Mind”
1 Peter 4:7-11
October 31, 2021

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

“The end of all things is at hand.”

The mark of Christian living in the last days is one of prayer.

“Prayer is the chief exercise of faith.”

Luke 11:5-8

5 And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, **6** for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; **7** and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? **8** I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence[c] he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

Prayer is enjoying and pleading the assistance of God as our friend.

Real change happens at the heart level.

1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Having God as Father creates status and access.

“since love covers a multitude of sins.”

Luke 14:12-14

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. **13** But when you give a feast, invite the

poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14** and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Hospitality is welcoming people into the center of your life.

C.S. Lewis Quote -

“But, for a Christian, there are, strictly speaking, no chances. A secret Master of the Ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you," can truly say to every group of Christian friends, "You have not chosen one another but I have chosen you for one another." The Friendship is not a reward for our discrimination and good taste in finding one another out. It is the instrument by which God reveals to each the beauties of all the others. At this feast it is He who has spread the board and it is He who has chosen the guests.”

Real friends are revealed in homes, over meals, around a table.

Luke 14:15-24

15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” **16** But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. **17** And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant[c] to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ **18** But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ **19** And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ **20** And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ **21** So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ **22** And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ **23** And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. **24** For I tell you,[d] none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

The people that God is bringing to the banquet are those who wouldn't feel qualified to accept an invitation.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Use your words and gifts to serve one another.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- How does Peter's statement about "the end of all things is near" (v.7) bring a sense of urgency and integrity to our lives?
- Discuss why Peter's sense of things ending make us more given to prayer. Shouldn't the fact that all things are ending lead us to give up on prayer?
- Can you recall a time when someone extended you meaningful hospitality? How can you use your house for ministry? Why do you think Peter adds to avoid "grumbling" connected to hospitality?
- What does it mean to speak as if speaking for God and to serve with God's strength? How is Peter describing an "all of life" approach to our faith?
- Of all the things Peter mentions in this section of Scripture, share one aspect of Christian living with your Grow Group that you want to develop more.