

1 Peter 1:1-12

Week 1 - Keys To The Kingdom

? What is the most significant gift you've ever received? Why was it meaningful to you?

1 Peter 1:1-12 (NIV)

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of

trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Although 1 Peter 1:3-10 contains punctuation in our English Bibles, it is one continuous sentence in the original Greek. The ability to carry on an extended thought or argument was considered the hallmark of a skillful orator in antiquity. Here, Peter expresses gratitude to God for His salvation through the person and work of God's Son, Jesus.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

? Peter praises God for several different reasons in verses 3-5. Which of these stands out to you the most? Why?

? What do you think of when you hear the word “inheritance”? What do you think it meant to Peter’s original audience (vs. 4)?

? What exactly is the inheritance that is being kept in heaven for us?

? If we have already received our salvation, then what will be revealed to us in “the last time?”

? What are some practical ways we can remind ourselves of the truth that we are heirs to the Kingdom of God?

? According to vs. 7, what happens to faith when it is tested by a trial?

? What is your typical, natural reaction when bad things happen to you? Why do you think that’s your reaction?

? What does Peter suggest should be our focus in the midst of trials? How might we find hope by shifting our focus away from ourselves?

? How is it countercultural to praise God in the midst of hardship?

? How can our counter-cultural responses to trials and difficulties turn into ministry opportunities?

Who Elects the Elect?

The nation of Israel was designated as God’s chosen or elect people (Deut 4:37; Isa 45:4). In the New Testament, this term is expanded to include the Church, which consists of both Jews and Gentiles. Peter was an apostle to the Jews (Gal 2:7–8), but the churches he writes to in 1 Peter in Asia Minor were probably full of mostly Gentile (non-Jewish) members. (Faithlife Study Bible, Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers, Bible Gateway)

? How can we, as a small group, support each other in the midst of the trials we face?

Questions For Discussion And Accountability

? In what areas of your life are you not living like an heir of the Kingdom of God?

? How can you choose to worship God in the midst of life's trials and difficulties?