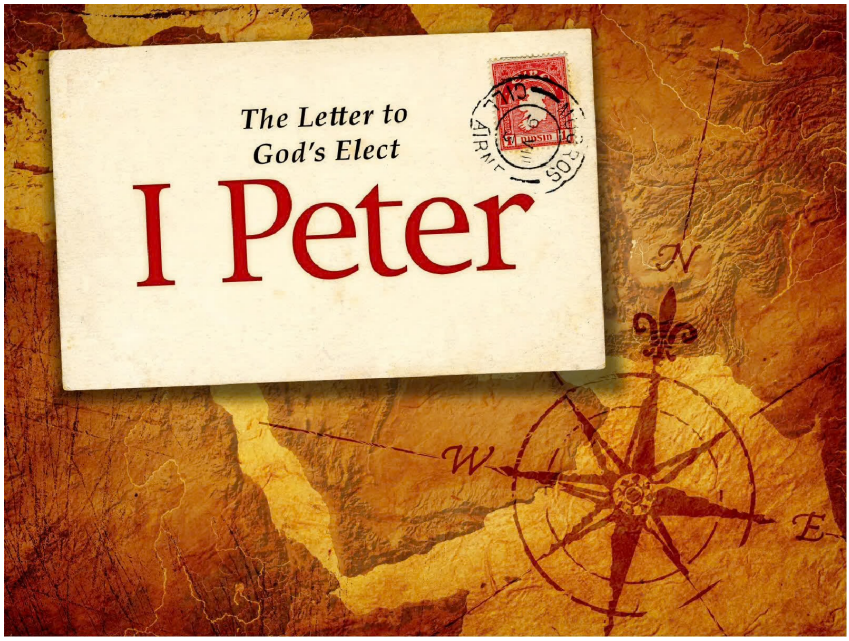
A Guided Inductive Study of 1st Peter



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of First Peter

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

1st Peter 1

Key verses to think about.

(There's so much to think about and meditate on it's hard to summarize these truths. Take some time to masticate on it.)

1:2 Elect by Foreknowledge
Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

1:3-5 Kept by God
Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1:6-7 More Precious than Gold
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1:8 Joy Unspeakable
Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him,* yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1:13 Rest Fully in Grace
Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your hope* fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1:14-15 Not Confirmed, but Holy
As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; But as He who called you *is holy*, you also be holy in all *your conduct*, because it is written, *"Be holy, for I am holy."*

1:18 Redeemed by the Blood
Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1:23 Born Again
Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

Main Truth:

You are foreknown by God, elected by God, and kept by God, therefore you should fully rest in his grace.

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 (v2) How do you understand election? What other scriptures refer to election? Do they help you understand it better?

2 (v2) How do you understand the foreknowledge of God the Father? What other verses refer to foreknowledge?

3 (v13) Are you resting fully on grace, or partly on grace and partly on your performance?

4 (v8) Do you have joy unspeakable and full of glory? What does full of glory mean? What does that look like?

5 (v6-7) Trials test the genuineness of your faith. How do you know if your faith is genuine? What does genuine faith look like?

Commentary

I can't help but want to expound on each verse and significant words Peter used. If you are a student of the word do word studies on all the words in quotation marks. See how that word is used elsewhere in Scripture.

1(b4) Abundant mercy, begotten, inheritance, undefiled, fades not, "reserved" in heaven,

2 (v4) shielded by God, "kept" by the power of God.

3 (v8) joy "inexpressible" and full of glory,

4 (v13) "Rest" your hope fully on grace…

5 (v15) do not "conform" to the evil desires of this age but be holy (Romans 12:1-2)

6 (v18) "Redeemed" by the precious blood of Christ

7 (v23)"Born Again" by the living and enduring word of God

8 (v25) grass withers, word "stands" (abides) forever

1st Peter 2

Key verses to think about.

2:2 Desire the Milk of the Word
As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.

2:4 He Is Chosen of God and Precious
Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious.

2:9-10 You Are Chosen of God and Precious
But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

2:11-12 Sojourners and Pilgrims
Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

2:13 Submit to Ordinances of man
Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme.

2:15 Do Good
For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men

2:17 Honor Everyone
Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

2:21 Walk in His Steps
For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

2:24-25 By His Stripes We Are Healed
Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Main Truth:

You are chosen and precious to God therefore rejoice with joy unspeakable

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 Honestly, do you desire the milk of the Word daily? Do you desire strong meat of the word? What is the difference?

2 Do you feel chosen of God and precious when you are going through a trial?

3 Do your feel like *"a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people"*? How do you feel about your relationship with God? Why don't you feel special?

4 Do you obey every ordinance of man? Like speeding? Like getting a COVID shot, wearing a mask, etc. How about using personal pronouns for people who demand you call the she when he is a he?

5 Are we all called to suffer for Christ? What does that mean? How do we follow in his footsteps?

6 What did Peter mean *“by his stripes we are healed”?* Are healed, not will be healed. Not can be healed. Not might be healed. Not some can be healed.

1st Peter 3

Key verses to think about.

3:1-2 Wives Submit
Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.

3:3-4 Female Adornments
Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel—rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

3:7 Husband's Prayer Can Be Hindered
Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

3:8-9 Be Tenderhearted
Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

3:15 Give a Ready Defense
But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

3:18-20 He Preached to Spirits in Prison
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

Main Truth:

Godly character is always tenderhearted and easy to get along with.

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 "Wives be submissive to your husbands" This seems to be culturally anathema, offensive, and mildp chauvinism. Why does our culture reject this command?

2 "Honor your wife as the weaker vessel" This too gets a bad rap in today's culture. Women resent being called the "weaker" vessel. Why?

3 *"Return blessing for cursing"* It is often a natural tendency to return cursing for cursing, or at best, tit for tat. "If you're mean to me I'll be mean right back." What's wrong with that attitude?

4 This seems to be a weird statement. *"He went and o reached to spirits in prison"* What does he mean? Where did Peter get that theology?

5 What does it mean to *"sanctify the Lord God in your heart"*? How do you do that? Do you do that?

6 Are you always ready to give a reason and an answer for the hope that is in you? Do you think you do it well? When is the last time you witnessed to someone?

1st Peter 4

Key verses to think about.

4:4 They Think You Are Strange
In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you.*

4:5 All Men Will Give an Account to God
They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

4:7 The End is Near!
But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

4:8 Fervently Love
Above all things have fervent love for one another, for *"love will cover a multitude of sins."*

4:9 Be Hospitable
Be hospitable to one another without grumbling

4:10 Minister Your Own Gift
As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

4:11 Speak and Preach as Anointed by God
If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

4:12 Fiery Trials Are Normal
Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

4:14 God's Spirit Rests on You
If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you,* for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

4:19 Suffer According to the Will of God
Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Main Truth:

We all have been gifted by God, so discover your gift and use it for God's glory by loving everyone fervently, forgiving others liberally as Christ has forgiven you.

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 How can you be watchful in prayer? Why are we told to watch and pray? Why not just pray?

2 Usually it is the wife who practices hospitality. But how can a man practice hospitality without depending on his wife to be the hospitable one?

3 Do you know the gift the Holy Spirit has given you? What is your primary gift? How many gifts do you have? Are you actively using your gift for God's glory every week? How?

4 In the midst of your trials know that the Spirit of God rests on you. God only sends trials to make us strong. Do you ever feel like God's Spirit is resting on you? When? If not, why not? Do you ever feel like God is picking on you?

1st Peter 5

Key verses to think about.

5:2 Be a Good Shepherd
Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

5:5b Be Humble
God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

***5:7* Cast Your Care on Him**
Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

5:8 Your Adversary Seeks to Devour
Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

5:10 May God Perfect You
But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you.*

Main Truth:

The devil attacks us in many ways. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. But God is greater than the devil to protect you and strengthen you.

Questions to ponder & discuss:

1 You may not be a pastor but how can you shepherd people that are near you? What does it mean to “shepherd” the flock? What does a shepherd do?

2 Are you ever proud? What does a proud person look like? What do they do? Can you be proud of being humble?

3 What are two or three heavy cares you are bearing at this moment? Can you identify your worries and cares? List them. Have you "cast" them on the Lord, or are you carrying them?

4 How does the devil seek to devour you? Do you recognize his prowling and growling? What does it feel like when the devil is prowling around you ready to pounce on you? He only roars after he has pounced on his prey.

5 Do you see any evidence of how God is *"perfecting, establishing, strengthening, and settling you"*? What would "settling" you look like? What would "establishing" you look like? What would "perfecting" you look like?