

Is Peter's instruction in verse 7 easy or hard for you right now?

What is the promise in verse 10? How does this encourage you?

Spend some extra time right now "casting your cares" on God. Tell Him everything you are worried about. Ask Him to give you the power to persevere.

Saturday

Please pray that everyone who attends services this weekend will be encouraged in Christ! Pray that the services will glorify God. Please consider how you can invite a friend.

Courage in the Crisis

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Five frequent reactions to crisis and uncertainty:

- **Difficulty** _____
- **Obsessive** _____
- _____
- **Lack of** _____
- _____ **about the future**

Five Principles from First Peter

"Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."
1 Peter 3:14b (NIV) (See Isaiah 8:12)

"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..."
1 Peter 1:6,7a (NLT)

1. **Steady** _____

"Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled..."
1 Peter 4:7b (NIV)

"Be self-controlled and **alert**." *1 Peter 5:8a*

"Prepare your **minds** for action; be self-controlled."
1 Peter 1:13a

2. **Stay** _____

"...be clear-minded and self-controlled **so that you can pray**." *1 Peter 4:7b*

"**Cast all your anxiety on him** because he cares for you." *1 Peter 5:7*

Background of First Peter

- Written during period of extreme persecution about 1,940 years ago
- Constant threat of violence
- Emperor Nero killing and torturing Christians
- Christians blacklisted from employment
- _____ times Peter refers to suffering
- Uses _____ different Greek words for suffering

3. Support _____

“Above all, **love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” *1 Peter 4:8*

“Live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers.” *1 Peter 3:8*

“Continue to do good...” *1 Peter 4:19c*

4. Stick _____

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the reason for the **hope** that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect...” *1 Peter 3:15b*

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may **declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness...**” *1 Peter 2:9*

5. See _____

- Remember what is _____

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.” *1 Peter 1:24-25a*

- Remember what is _____

“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.**” *1 Peter 1:4 (NLT)*

“Set your hope **fully** on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed...” *1 Peter 1:13b (NIV)*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Look back over the messages notes and verses from this past weekend’s message. Which points were particularly helpful for you? Choose one of the five points to focus on in your life this week:

How will you put this into practice?

Ask God to help you focus on Him this week, when so many other worries can vie for your attention.

Tuesday

Read 1 Peter 1, preferably in a modern language translation that is somewhat new to you (I just tried reading this in the New Living Translation and loved it). You can read different translations for free at www.biblegateway.com. Remember, this epistle was written when Christians were in serious physical and economic danger. What verses from this chapter particularly strike you?

continued 

How do they help you deal with our current crisis?

Thank God that he has given you an inheritance that will never perish, spoil, or fade!

Wednesday

Read 1 Peter 3:8-18. What advice does Peter give to these first-century Christians that particularly strikes you as relevant to your situation?

How will you apply these verses to your life?

One of the points of last weekend’s message was to stick together, and to share with others. How can you reassure others this week that you are with them in their trials?

How can you do good for others? How can you share your hope with others?

Ask God to show you ways you can, through a phone call, note, or gift, encourage another today!

Thursday

Read 1 Peter 4:7-13. What instruction does Peter give these first-century Christians in their time of violence and uncertainty?

In your own words, list Peter’s advice to these believers:

Why is this advice necessary? In other words, how is the reaction Peter commands different from natural reactions to this kind of crisis?

Put a star next to the items on this list that are easy for you. Circle the items that are difficult, or where you desire to see improvement.

Pray for God to give you a spirit of peace and love in the way that Peter outlines.

Friday

Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. This is such a rich passage! What are the concepts from this passage that really speak to you right now?



Memory Verse

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”
1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

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