

Fixate Your Hope on Grace, (#2)

(1 Peter 1:13) “Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”.

Peter was very familiar with hope and the choice every believer makes about to whom or to what he/she attaches their hope. He had spent most of his life with his hope, his expectation, his confidence in his future fixed on the temporal things of this life. With his mind focused on the things of man, like the rest of the disciples, he tried to use the Lord to build a prosperous life for himself sitting at His right or left. It was after much spiritual growth that he was able to abandon his old man ambitions fixed on temporal life and in the new man, to redirect his hope on the life that is to come, the grace to be brought to us at the revelation of the Lord.

1. Hope – elpizo, elpis – confident expectation about the future; our hope is what we expect to happen that will provide what we need to be happy.

Our hope / expectations come out of our beliefs, what we believe is true, what we believe will happen in our future.

2. Our hope, like faith is attached to an object making the object personal to us.

(Heb 4:2) the message does not profit us unless we unite it with our faith.

- Unite, put together, attach together, mix together – we attach our faith to the message.
- When we attach / fix our faith to an idea and the idea becomes our own belief
- We attach / fix our hope to an object(s) and it is what we expect will happen in our future and provide what we need to be happy.

3. False hope / expectations compared to Godly hope / expectations

False Hope (unrealistic expectations) attach our faith / hope in man & the things of this life
(Job 8:13-14; Job 31:24; Job 8:14; Psm 33:17)

(Jeremiah 17:5) “Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD”.

- a. False hope is the expectation that man or things / life can save or give happiness (+H)
- b. False hope comes from believing the world’s lie of life without God.
- c. False hope pursues the things of this life for +H – wealth as security
- d. False hope will always bring utter disappointment – cursed is the man

Godly Hope: Placing your faith / hope in God and the things of eternity.

(Luke 12:33) “Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”

(Psalms 31:24) “those who trust in the Lord will strengthen their hearts”
(Psalms 42:5) “hope in the Lord quiets the disturbed soul”
(Psalms 119:49) “hope in His word”
(Psalms 130:5) “my soul waits for the Lord, my hope is in His word”

- a. The Lord always delivers what He promises – He is able to deliver
- b. Hope in the Lord & His word will always be what He promised
- c. Fix hope on the grace to be brought to you – the living hope based on resurrection

- d. Peter's growth enabled him to hope in the next life more than this life.

Peter's Growth

(Mt 16: 13-20) Peter has been listening to God The Father and knows Jesus is the Christ – blessed

- Peter is listening in bible class, praying to GF, listening to GHS – pos to truth

(Mt 16:20-23) Jesus began to show disciples that He must die, be buried & then resurrected

Vs 22 – Peter rebukes Jesus – this will never happen to you.

Vs 23 – not focused on the things of God instead focused on the things of man.

- Phroneo (Pres.A.Ind) – focus the mind; mind set; habitually think about; attitude
- Peter's mind is focused / man – thinking about Christ from human viewpoint

What image, about the future, does Peter have in his mind? What is he imagining will happen if Jesus lives?
What is He dies?

Supposition:

Peter believed that when Jesus brought in the millennial kingdom, that he would have one of the highest positions of power and authority. He would turn out to be a bigger success than anyone ever dreamed he could be. Peter needed Jesus to live, bring in the kingdom and promote him to high office.

1. The common view of the day, and Peter's own view, was that the Messiah would bring in the kingdom when He came – Jesus was the Messiah and would bring in the kingdom.
2. Evidence: (Mk 9:34): the disciples were all arguing about who was the greatest; (Mk 10:35-37) James and John asked Him if they could have the positions at the right and left; (Mt 20:20-21) James and John asked their mom to approach Jesus about the positions.
3. Peter, like the other disciples had already imagined his new position in Israel and the way everyone who knew him was going to respond – he was counting on it.

Peter was hoping, expecting and confident that he was going to hold a prominent position in the new kingdom. He had already made it real in his own mind.

Peter's hope was fixed on the earthly gain he might have from his relationship with Jesus and the possibility of his family & peers thinking of him as a successful person.

(Mt 26:31-35) “Jesus: you will all fall away tonight; Peter: even if all men fall away I will not; Jesus: before the night is over you will deny me 3 times; Peter: even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you.”

Question:

1. Why does Peter believe he must prove his loyalty to Jesus? Did Jesus want Peter to be loyal and brave in the flesh? Was it God's will for Peter to die?
2. Peter is still focused on the things of man:
 - He uses human logic to decide how to relate to Jesus – as a loyal friend who will not abandon him in his hour of need.
 - As a true friend who will even die before abandoning Jesus to die alone
 - As a man who fears being seen as a coward or seeing himself as a coward
3. Peter wants Jesus to see him as a true friend that is loyalty under any adversity.
4. He wants all of the disciples to see him as a brave man, loyal to the end.

His hope, expectation is that if by his own efforts he can impress Jesus with his loyalty and bravery so that Jesus will think highly of him and he can feel good about himself.

Clue to Old Man Thinking, worldly gain is most always about meeting our need for love, approval and acceptance from our family and peers.