

READY TO LIVE IN VICTORY

Houses of Light Church • February 5-6, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 1:1-2

'Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who 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.'

I. PETER AN APOSTLE AND WITNESS

- A. So much has been said about Peter but something we must not forget is that he was an eyewitness to the sufferings and resurrection of Christ and that as an apostle he is an authorized spokesman to speak for and on behalf of Jesus.

1 Ped. 5:1 *"I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed..."*

1 Ped. 3:21b-22 *"It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him."*

II. OUR IDENTITY:

- A. **FOREIGNERS OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY:** Peter is speaking directly to those who had to flee Israel because of persecution (**Acts 11:19**). And some of us can identify with them if we are in this country because we had to flee ours. But what Peter says has a much broader meaning; it refers to all of us who live in this world but who are no longer part of the world system. As those of us who have been rescued by Christ, we are strangers in a world that is under the evil one and that is hostile to the will and kingdom of God. (**1 Jn. 5:19**).

1. We are called to reside as foreigners in the land that after the return of Jesus will be the place where we will reign, just as it happened to Abraham.

Heb. 11:9 *"By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise."*

2. When heaven comes down to earth at the return of Christ then we will reign here.

Rev. 5:10 *"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

3. **Our children must be clear that they are in the world but that they are not of the world.** We are in this world to be an influence and not to be shaped by the world. We Christians win in the midst of an opposing society

being prepared to suffer because our values are opposed to the current of the prince of this world.

Jn. 17:15-16 "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."

4. **"Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia"** If Jesus wrote to the churches in seven cities, Peter wrote to the believers in five cities, all of them also in present-day Turkey..

III. **CHOSEN**

- A. Although these Christians had been scattered outside their homeland to the provinces mentioned at the same time they were chosen according to God's foreknowledge; **that is to say that even circumstances such as persecution and living in a place where you do not belong, which is difficult; they cannot change who we are to God or the decision He made to choose us.** In general, we tend to allow situations to make us lose sight of our identity in Christ.
- B. We have not yet had to live this type of persecution of having to flee to another place because of our faith, but this is a reality that the first century church faced, it can happen to us while the mystery of iniquity continues to grow in the world (**2 Thess 2:7**). **The more we remember who we are in Christ, the better prepared we are to face even the toughest trials without moving from our faith.**
- C. **"through the sanctifying work of the Spirit"** What God the Father uses for this election to be effective is the sanctifying work of His Holy Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit produces a desire for holiness in our lives that is real and leads us to make decisions to continue fighting against sin. The election without that sanctifying work would not be complete because in our carnal nature we cannot adequately respond to this call.
- D. **"to be obedient to Jesus Christ"** The goal and final demonstration that this whole process is real is obedience to Jesus Christ. Sometimes we are content with having good ideas or good intentions, which is correct, but Jesus wants the actions of obedience; works of justice.
Jn. 15:10 "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."
- E. **"sprinkled with his blood"** Sprinkling with the blood of Christ' means bringing a person into the sphere of influence of Christ's death, aligning him /her with the One who died. This alignment achieves and graphically expresses the figure, the purification and therefore the appropriation in a new connection with God. This is an allusion to what happened at Mount Sinai.

Ex. 24:6-8 "Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant

and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey." 8 Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

1. **Jesus purchased our obedience with His blood.** The blood of Jesus is the confirmation of the New Covenant because it is the foundation of the forgiveness of our sins and our introduction to be a kingdom of priests for God.
 2. Members of the priesthood enjoyed the privilege of mediating between God and the people (**Ex. 29:21; Lev. 8:30**). Members of the royal line of Israel enjoyed the privilege of ruling under the authority of God. **All these benefits also belong to the Christian, whom God "sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ", the final sacrifice for our sins.** Obedience is our responsibility, and being sprinkled is our privilege. The blood of Christ covers our sins as sinners, cleanses our contamination as impure people, and consecrates our service as priests and kings.
- F. **All three members of the Trinity participate in this process:** The Father foreknowledge chooses us; the Son rescues us with his Blood so that we obey him and the Holy Spirit sanctifies us so that the process is complete and real.
- IV. **GRACE AND PEACE:** These two gifts from God are what we need to obey in the midst of trials and they come from God. The theme of grace runs throughout this letter; this word is repeated 9 times and does not speak as much as Paul about the legal work of justification that gives rise to grace but about the practical part that produces.
1. **Grace means both God's favor and help.** This epistle reveals, above all, that the grace of God is sufficient for all our needs (**2 Cor. 12:9**). This is not just positive thinking, but real outside help.
 2. **When God tests our faith, we must remember that we have an adequate source of "strength" in God's grace (1 Pet. 5:10).**
 3. **When our faith is shaking, we must remember that we have an adequate source of "trust" in God's grace.**
 4. **When our circumstances are difficult, we must remember that we have an adequate source of "conduct" in God's grace, not just "pep talks" (Titus 2:11-12).**
 5. **When we suffer for our integrity, we must remember that we have an adequate source of "character" in God's grace, not just self-effort (1 Pet. 2:19).**
 6. **When we are attacked by the adversary, we must remember that we have an adequate source of "courage" in the grace of God.** Some need boldness to evangelize, others need it to do other forms of ministry. (**Jas. 4:7**).

7. **"We stand firm in the true grace of God"** when we respond to suffering for the love of Christ. God's grace is what we need to hold on to as we commit to continuing to walk in God's will. We need to trust and obey!

Rom. 5:2-3 "through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance."

- B. **Peter prays in this short prayer for grace and peace upon them.** This is something we should pray for our own and our disciples. This must be a constant prayer, more than a simple greeting, it is a necessity that we must not stop asking for. (**Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:21; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4; Philemon. 1:3; 2 Pet. 12:2; 2 Jn. 1:3; Rev. 1:4**)

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does feeling secure of your identity in Christ help you in light of the difficulties you are going through?
2. In what areas do you see the Holy Spirit sanctifying you in this season of your life? Explain
3. In what ways can you grow more in obedience by God's grace?
4. In the Friendship Group pray for one another receiving God's grace in the aspects that need it most.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **YOUTH SERVICE:** This Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 p.m. All Junior High and High School youth are welcome.
- **OPEN HOUSE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** This Saturday, February 12, 9:00 a.m. The whole Houses family is invited.