

Hope fully and live holy to the glory of God. (I Pet 1:13 -22)

Prayer

O God, after the previous section, we as exiles, are filled with joy because of Your sovereign work and power. When we open Your Word today, let us search for the most valuable Treasure with enthusiasm. Give us clarity of mind to understand the passage. But Lord, help us that it does not stay head knowledge, but make it heart knowledge. Make the content of Your gospel our only hope, for we know, our passion also controls how we live. Let us live holy, for You are holy.

Amen

Scripture

1. Introduction

Peter praised God's sovereign power in verses 3-12 and now he can begin the journey of explaining a holy life. We looked at it in the previous section and called it: Salvation: My joy as an exile. Today we look at verses 13-21. We receive three commands in it.

2. Hope fully

13 Therefore,

*preparing your minds for action,
and being sober-minded,*

set your *hope fully* on the *grace*

that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

14As obedient children,

do not be conformed

*to the passions of your former
ignorance,*

15but as *he* who *called* you is *holy*,

you also be holy in all your conduct,

16since it is *written*, "You shall be *holy*,

for I am holy." (1 Pet 13:13-16 ESV)

Our text starts with "therefore", which refers back to God's great mercy and his great power with which he gave us salvation. It filled us with joy. Here he emphasizes another characteristic of God: His holiness. His holiness is the reason for this paragraph: for I am holy."

We find our first command in the first sentence: Therefore... set your hope fully on the grace. To hope, is something that happens in the heart – an emotion. How do one execute such a command? Peter gives us two secondary commands to get to the first command:

The first: *preparing your minds for action*. The image here is to take away what stops your mind from running fast.

The second: *and being sober-minded*. The image used here is that someone who is drunk cannot think clearly.

Thus, the two things we need to do to execute the “hope fully” command in our hearts, has to do with our minds. Our minds go back to the “therefore”, to all the reasons to praise God. The mind then feeds it to the heart to passionately hope on that grace.

Don't miss the word "fully" here. This your only hope! As we confess: Our only hope is that we belong to Jesus Christ. For now, our knowledge and understanding is in part, but when He comes again, He will reveal himself fully.

3. Live holy

Verse 14 describes us as *obedient* children. Thus, in verse 13 it started at the mind, it overflowed to the heart and filled it with hope and now it goes to the body to be obedient. Verses 14-16 shows us how.

He starts in verse 14 to show us what we shouldn't do. We follow the indentation and start with verse 14 from the bottom to the top:

1. Formerly you were ignorant (didn't know God)
2. Then you had passions for other things
3. and therefore, you conformed to these passions

Verse 14 showed us what not to do, verse 15 shows us what we should do, our second command: *14As obedient children... you also be holy in all your conduct,*

The reason why we should live differently, is firstly because He *called* us. Here he refers back to verse 3, elect (chosen) exile and that lead to verse 3 being born again. The second why we should live differently, is because *He is holy*. He, the holy, one chooses; He calls and he causes us to be born again. That knowledge, brings hope and obedience. It is striking that He quotes this second reason from the Word, our source of knowledge.

1And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. (Leviticus 19:1-2)

We cannot have a relationship with God, the holy one, but also our Father, if we are not holy, obedient children. The only way that can happen, is through receiving the knowledge that all of this comes from Him. That is the only thing you can fully hope on and that overflows to a new life.

4. Act with reverence: Live to His glory.

*17And if you call on him as Father
who judges impartially according to each one's deeds,
conduct yourselves with fear throughout
the time of your exile,*

18knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers,

*not with perishable things such as silver or gold,
19but with the precious blood of Christ,
like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:17-19, ESV)*

Verse 14 called us obedient children. This verse now links to that, with the implication: **And if...** The implication, that we can call on Him as Father, who is holy, scares us when we look at how he puts it in verse 17: He **judges impartially** according to each one's deeds. For that very reason he told us in the beginning to hold on to our knowledge of God. He not only reveals Himself as a just God who judges. For that reason, verse 18 jumps back to the wonderful Gospel with the same approach of filling our minds: **"knowing..."**

Then he shows us that we **have been ransomed**. From what? **From** judgment because of our **futile ways!** A ransom **not paid with gold**, but through the **precious blood** of Christ. What is the reason we had to be ransomed from judgment? We led a meaningless life. We led a life where we did not follow the will of God, but lived according to what we learned from our ancestors.

Just like in the Old Testament, **a lamb** must be slaughtered for our sins. Something has to die in our place. The only Man who was completely holy: spotless and without blemish. We do not have to be afraid of God's judgment. We know...

What should we do then, if we understand it all, in this time, in which we live as exiles? This is our third command in verse 17, something we want to do wholeheartedly **"conduct yourselves with fear"**

We now live in such a way that people do not see our old meaningless life, but the preciousness of Jesus Christ. That they see Him as the spotless Lamb who redeemed us from that meaningless life. He is our only treasure - more valuable than silver and gold. When people then see that we live and act differently in this time as exiles and even in suffering, trusting in God alone, He gets the glory. It is a life in awe of Him, a life of reverence for Him.

*20He was **foreknown** before the foundation of the world
but was made **manifest** in the last times
for the sake of you 21who
through him
are believers in God,
who raised him **from the dead and gave him glory**,
so that your **faith and hope are in God**.
22Having **purified your souls by your obedience
to the truth**
for a **sincere brotherly love**,
love one another **earnestly from a pure heart (1 Pet 1:20-22, ESV)***

Peter summarizes for us today's passage here in verses 20-22 as follows:
Our knowledge **about God**
leads to faith and hope in Him
that overflows to a holy life

Let's look at how he paints it for us:

God knew Jesus Christ even before the foundation of the world. For the sake of the exiles who received the letter, he was only revealed in their time. But it's not just for the readers of Peter's letter, it is also for us who are reading this. What is written here, is for you who believe in God. He then again emphasizes two things that God has done: He raised Jesus Christ and glorified Him and through Him, he gave us faith. So, we are not only redeemed from our sin by His blood, but we also know He keeps us and our inheritance until He comes again.

That is why our faith and hope are focused on God.

Our inner being is changed in such a way (through the knowledge of God) that it overflows into acts of obedience and brotherly love. If Peter then ends with the command: You must love one another, it is not something we should try to do. It is a joy that is sincere and overflow from our pure hearts.

5. Conclusion

We saw three things today:

1. We are called through the Holy:
Be holy
2. The Holy father judge according the deeds:
Act with reverence
3. Our knowledge about God leads to faith and hope on Him which overflows to a holy life

Peter first called us with: therefore remember with your mind and hope fully on the grace before it could flow into a holy life.

And even if the Father judges according to actions, we do not have to worry, because: you are redeemed/ransomed by the spotless Lamb's precious blood from your meaningless life

At point three we saw the way we gain knowledge about God that leads to faith is: God knew Christ beforehand, He reveals Him now and let us hope and believe on Him It then flows into a holy life. One of sincere pure hearts that love

Our theme for today:
Hope completely (fully)
And live holy
To the glory of God

6. Reflection

We learned new things about God today. Go through the text and write down what you learned about God and Jesus Christ, your only treasure.

7. Thanksgiving

Today we clearly saw how knowledge overflows to our hearts and to acts of obedience, in love. In which direction is God, through the Holy spirit pushing you today? Think about this and write down, at least one, very specific, resolution in which your joy will overflow today.

8. Prayer

Use what you wrote at your reflection and thanksgiving and end this session in prayer as the Spirit leads you.

Peace to you.