

This devotion begins a series of devotions based upon the Book of 1 Peter. This book addresses we who are believers in Jesus Christ living in a variety of life situations. It instructs and encourages we, the Lord's people, as we endure suffering due to the tensions that arise between living as a Christian in a non-Christian world, in a variety of social, cultural and political environments. In other words, this book is relevant to the world in which you and I live.

## **A MESSAGE FROM GOD THROUGH PETER**

1 Peter 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ . . ."

1 Peter is a letter from Peter written to Christians, who due to persecution, had dispersed to many different places in the then known world. (Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia – (Verse 1) Peter self-describes himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ." (verse 1)

Peter was an apostle of Jesus Christ? The meaning of the Greek word Apostolos is one who is sent out. Jesus personally chose Peter as one of His apostles. Jesus gave Peter, as He did all of the apostles, instructions to take the message of the Gospel out into the entire world. (Matthew 28:18-19) He sent all of them out into the world as His emissaries, His personal representatives, His ambassadors.

What qualified the apostles for this role in the early Christian church? To be an apostle, they had to have been an eyewitness to Jesus after his resurrection (1 Corinthians 9:1); had to have been chosen by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:15); and had to have ministered with miraculous signs and wonders (Acts 2:43; 2 Corinthians 12:12).

Why is it important to call your attention to the fact that Peter was an apostle, an emissary, an ambassador of Jesus Christ? As an apostle, emissary, an ambassador Peter was chosen by Jesus to represent, speak in behalf of and carry the message of the Gospel out into the world. For three-and-one-half years Jesus taught and prepared Peter, as well as all the apostles for this task. When Peter writes this letter, Jesus is actually speaking through him to you and all who read this letter.

Knowing Jesus chose Peter for this role means as you read these devotions based upon Peter's Holy Spirit inspired words, you will be receiving from God His word

for your life journey. God's word through Peter's pen will encourage, instruct, equip, warn and prepare you for whatever comes your way.

Prayer: Jesus, You chose Peter as one of Your apostles to spread Your message of salvation into the world. Thank You for preserving this word for me that through it I may be encouraged, instructed, equipped for my life journey to my eternal home with You. In Your holy name. Amen.

Saints, see the cloud of witnesses surround us;  
Their lives of faith encourage and astound us,  
Hear how the Master praised their faith so fervent;  
"Well done, My servant!"

These saints of old received God's commendation;  
They lived as pilgrim-heirs of His salvation.  
Through faith they conquered flame and sword and gallows,  
God's name to hallow.

They call to us, "Your timid footsteps lengthen;  
Throw off sin's weight, your halting weakness strengthen.  
We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were martyred;  
Our lives we bartered."

Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suffered,  
He faced the cross, His sinless life He offered;  
He scorned the shame, He died, our death enduring,  
Our hope securing.

Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,  
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;  
Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us—  
With grace precede us.

You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!  
Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;  
Past, present, future—You, the same forever—  
You fail us never!  
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