

EXTREMELY EMOJINAL

"WHEN LIFE IS >:{"

1 PETER 1:3-12

This Week's Core Competency

Identity in Christ – I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God. John 1:12, *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

Who am I? It's a profound question that we all ask and answer one way or another, and this week's Core Competency implies that your answer, in fact, changed once you became a Christian. The notion that you have an identity in Christ, an identity determined by your relationship to him, suggests that you had a different identity before you were in Christ.

Here's what I mean. In Christ you're a child of God, justified, forgiven, and having the imputed righteousness of Christ that makes you holy in your Heavenly Father's eyes. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who has gifted you to contribute to the spiritual formation of others in Christ. Because you are God's child, you are also an heir. All things belong to God, and he has appointed his Son, Jesus, heir of all things, and you are a co-heir with him. How profound are Paul's words! "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified" (Ro 8:29, 30).

Time destroys most hopes. But the passing of time only makes a Christian's hope that much more glorious.

– Warren W. Wiersbe

You're not who you once were; you're a new person in Christ. In another place Paul writes, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of the world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:1-7).

In 1 Peter 1:3-5, echoing Paul's words, the apostle Peter mentions a number of other complementary marks of our identity in Christ. Believers are the recipients of God's great mercy, in that he has begotten them, making them his children. Along with the new life in Christ that's theirs, theirs, too, is "a living hope" and an everlasting "inheritance" kept secure in heaven for them until Christ returns. Not only is their inheritance secure, they, too, are secure, being guarded by God's power until the day of salvation, when they receive their full inheritance. The hope that is theirs as a result of their identity in Christ makes it possible for them to rejoice even when they "suffer grief in all kinds of trials" that come their way for they know that when he comes, their faithfulness will result in God's praise, glory and honor being lavished on them.

day 1 ENCOUNTER – read God’s word to put yourself in touch with him.

1 Peter 1:3-12

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Cf., another translation

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. (ESV)

EXAMINE – what the passage says before you decide what it means.

- * Circle "new birth" in v. 3.
- * Box word "into" and underline "a living hope" in v. 3.
- * Box the word "into" and underline "an inheritance" in v. 4.
- * Circle "kept" and "shielded" in v. 4 and v. 5 respectively.
- * Insert "all" between the first two words in v. 6.
- * Draw a line from "until" in v. 5 to "when" in v. 7.
- * Box "though" indicating *concession* in vv. 6, 8.
- * Underline "may" in v. 7.
- * Box "for" indicating *reason* in v. 9.
- * Circle "salvation" in vv. 5, 9, 10.
- * Circle "grace" in v. 10.
- * Bracket "intently and with the greatest care" in v. 10.
- * Circle "Spirit of Christ" in v. 11.
- * Draw a line from "sufferings" to "glories" in v. 11.
- * Box "but" indicating *contrast* in v. 12.

day 2

EXPLORE – the answer to these questions to better understand what the passage means.

Consult the explanation of the message and the notes to follow if you need help.

1. Those whom God has begotten have "a living hope." Describe what "living hope" means.
2. Explain what "the resurrection of Jesus" has to do with our "living hope."
3. Those whom God has begotten have "an inheritance." Summarize what Peter says about it.
4. Those whom God has begotten "are being guarded by God's power" (ESV). What has their "faith" got to do with it?
5. Salvation will be "revealed in the last time." How so?
6. Believers may have "to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." Why so?
7. Explain who *gives* and *gets* "praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."
8. The Old Testament prophets serving us when they spoke of "the sufferings of Christ and glories that would follow." How so?
9. What do you think Peter is trying to accomplish by telling his readers what he does in verses 10-12?
10. **Discussion:** Talk about the extent to which verse 8 is true of you.

day 3

EXAMINE – an explanation of its message to clarify your understanding of the passage.

On the *general* purpose of Peter's first epistle, one commentator writes: "Peter stated his reason for writing, namely, to encourage his readers, who were facing persecution for their faith, to 'stand firm' (5:12). Evidently this persecution was widespread among his readers . . . 1 Peter reflects persecution of the Christians throughout northern Asia Minor. This condition prevailed after Nero blamed the Christians for burning Rome in July of A.D. 64. While persecution seems to have been widespread, it may not have been official yet" (Thomas L. Constable, "Notes on 1 Peter," 2015 ed., 3, www.soniclight.com). And on the *specific* purpose of 1:3-12, he goes on to say: "The first part of this section, on who we are as Christians, is a revelation of our great salvation. Some have called it 'the Great Doxology.' In this doxology, Peter reminded us of our hope, our joy, and the witnesses of our salvation. He did this so we would appreciate how greatly God has blessed us" (11).

In verses 3-5, Peter describes the hope of our salvation. He praises God for his great mercy in that he has begotten us "into a living hope" and "into an inheritance." He describes our hope as "living" because it is alive rather than dead, true rather than false, certain rather than unsure. And it is ours "through the resurrection of Jesus." In other words, the resurrection of Jesus is its source; his resurrection gives us hope. He describes our inheritance as "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (ESV). By the first he means, "unable to be worn out with the passage of time," by the second, "unpolluted by sin and containing nothing unworthy of God's full approval," and by the third, "it will never wither, grow dim, or lose its beauty or glory" (Wayne Grudem, *The First Epistle of Peter*, TNTC, 57). What's more, our inheritance is secure even as we are secure. God keeps our inheritance and shields us by his power until salvation in full is ours when Christ returns.

What has our faith have to do with our security? The first commentator above answers: "I do not believe the apostle meant that the elect will inevitably continue in faith, namely, continue to believe the truths of the gospel. Paul warned that Christians can stop believing the truth (e.g., 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:17-18). Rather, Peter meant that God's

'power' keeps believers saved in spite of their sins, because they have placed saving faith in Christ in the past. In this sense, we who are believers never lose our 'faith'" (14). I agree; we are kept by God's power not by our faith, i.e., faithfulness.

In verses 6-9, Peter describes the joy of our salvation. From time to time we may "suffer grief in all kinds of trials." God allows these so that our faith "may be proved genuine," in other words, so that we may be proved faithful. As one writer explains: "The purpose of trials for the believer is said to involve faith. The reference is not to saving faith, which looks back to the moment of an individual's conversion, but to the sterling quality of *loyalty* to Christ in everyday living, especially at a time of trial (as again in 4:12 and 5:9)" (Norman Hillyer, *1 and 2 Peter, Jude*, NIBC, 33).

And God allows these trials so that our faithfulness "may result in praise, glory and honor" when Christ returns. As the creed for the Core Competency Hope suggests, *with hope*, in this case, the hope that we will be rewarded for our faithfulness, *we can cope* with whatever hardships come our way. Moreover, even though we have neither seen Christ nor see him now, we love him and are filled with inexplicable joy as we are obtaining the salvation of our souls.

In verses 10-12, Peter describes the witnesses of our salvation. The prophets who spoke about it did not fully comprehend all that was revealed to them by the Holy Spirit, and so, because they were keenly aware that what had been revealed was of the utmost importance to God's plan for his people, they anxiously searched earlier scriptures to find out more. In particular, they wanted to know the "time and circumstances," or rather, to "what person or time" (ESV) the Spirit was pointing. Who would be Messiah? When would he appear? How would "the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow" be related? However, the Spirit revealed to them that they were writing for our benefit not their own. Not only were the prophets captivated by God's grace, but angels also longed to understand our salvation.

The Message of the Passage

Never stop rejoicing in the new birth that provides you with a living hope and an everlasting inheritance, even though you must suffer grief from time to time, for God's great grace captivated Old Testament prophets and even angels.

day **4** **EMBRACE** – how God spoke to you through his word.

Our desire is to not be merely hearers of the word, but doers of the word as James teaches in James 1:22. Reflect on the first two "living questions" below to apply what you have learned this week.

- **Journal your answers to the following *living* questions:**

–How is God making himself known to you?

–How does God want to change you?

–How is God calling you to change your world?

“When Life is >:(”
(Use the space below for Sunday's message notes)

notes STUDY – the commentaries to answer the questions.

v. 3 **Praise be** Cf., 2Co 1:3; Eph 1:3. "The doxology was characteristic of Jewish prayer. It became focused in the Eighteen Benedictions, which were recited three times daily in the synagogue. But the Christian doxology is richer in its concepts of God and of the afterlife, as can be seen by comparing Peter's paean of praise with the meager wording of the Second Benediction: 'Blessed art thou, O Lord, that quickenest the dead' (Hillyer, 35).

v. 3 **new birth** Or "has caused us to be born again" (ESV). "The word for 'born anew' (anagennao) has a more active sense than our translation (['we have been born anew'] RSV) indicates, for the root word (gennao) often refers to a father's role in the birth of a child (AV, 'hath begotten us again'), either literally (Mt. 1:2-20) or figuratively, of spiritual birth (1 Cor. 4:15). 'Begot' is archaic, however, and he 'has caused us to be born again' (NASB) is probably best" (Grudem, 55).

v. 3 **living hope** "Here 'living' means that the believer's hope is sure, certain, and real, as opposed to the deceptive, empty, false hope the world offers" (Roger M. Raymer, "1 Peter," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*, 841). "If Christians are a reborn people, they are spiritually alive, and their hope is alive (i.e., it is valid, it will not be disappointed, cf. Rom 5:5) . . . Just as 'faith' can be subjective (the act or state of believing), or objective (the content of belief), so 'hope' can refer either to an anticipation (even a certainty) of good things to come or to the content of that anticipation, the good things themselves. The 'living hope' of which Peter speaks here is better understood in the second, objective, sense" (J. Ramsey Michaels, *Word Biblical Commentary*, vol. 49, *1 Peter*, 19).

v. 3 **resurrection** Cf. Ro 4:25. "The resurrection of Christ from the dead secures for his people both new resurrection bodies and new spiritual life. Christians do not in this age receive new bodies but God does grant, on the basis of Jesus' resurrection, renewed spirits. Thus, spiritually, believers have been 'raised with Christ' (Col. 3:1; Eph. 2:6; cf. Rom. 6:4, 11)" (Grudem, 56).

v. 4 **inheritance** "What is the Christian's inheritance exactly? It is Jesus Christ Himself plus all the blessings that He has promised us (cf. 1 John 3:2; Col. 3:4; Eph. 1:14; Rom. 8:11, 18-23). Not all Christians will obtain the same amount of inheritance (cf. 2 Tim. 2:12; Matt. 25:14-30; et al.), but every Christian will obtain much inheritance. Heaven will be the portion of all, but rewards will vary (1 Cor. 3:14-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 John 8)" (Constable, 12).

v. 4 **kept and shielded** Passive participles indicate that we are neither keeping our inheritance nor shielding ourselves. God is doing both for us. What's more, "in heaven," which is "virtually a circumlocution for God, confirms this" (Michaels, 21).

v. 5 **salvation** "Salvation is used here not of past justification or of present sanctification (speaking in theological categories) but of the future full possession of all the blessings of our redemption—of the final, complete fulfillment of our salvation (cf. Rom 13:11; 1 Pet. 2:2)" (Grudem, 59).

v. 6 **this** "The word this is best understood to refer to the entire future hope discussed in verses 3 to 5. It cannot refer to 'salvation', for that would require a feminine pronoun in the Greek text, whereas the pronoun in the text can only be masculine or neuter" (Grudem, 60; cf., Raymer, 841).

v. 6 **suffer grief** "Peter says therefore that Christians will experience grief only as it is necessary in the light of God's great and infinitely wise purposes for them . . . Since no one kind of trial or testing is in view, Peter's words have their application to all the trials which Christians experience (cf. Jas. 1:2)" (62).

v. 7 **result in praise** "It seems more likely that the initial thought is of praise which God gives to his people [rather than praise his people give to God], since in this context Peter is encouraging his readers to hope in their heavenly reward (v. 4)" (64)

v. 9 **for** "Peter says his readers are receiving or 'obtaining' the 'goal' or outcome of their faith while they are believing in Christ and rejoicing in him . . . a progressive obtaining of more and more of this 'goal' or 'outcome' to which their faith leads" (67).

v. 11 **trying to find out** The translation of one word in Greek that is used elsewhere of searching the Scriptures (Jn 5:39; 7:52).

v. 11 **time and circumstances** Some commentators prefer the NIV "time and circumstances" (see Michaels, 41); others prefer "person or time" (see Hillyer, 42).

v. 12 **to look into** The word translated here means "to bow the head sideways" in order to look at

Family Talk

Encouragement from one parent's heart to another

"I've got this." My adolescent son and I were having another conversation about the upcoming tryouts for an extra-curricular activity he wanted to pursue. "I know you think you do," I reasoned, "but this is going to be hard. You are going to have to really practice and have a great attitude." As the time of tryouts drew near I tried to not bring up the fact that he was not practicing. I knew this experience might prove painful for him. Like all parents, I don't like to see my kids hurt or disappointed but sometimes those experiences are the best teachers. When the results were posted, he had not made it. And it hurt - me and him. However, he had learned a valuable lesson and I was thankful for that. Parents, trials will come for our kids. While they are young we can shield them from most of them, but as they grow up they will encounter them head on. They will be treated unfairly. They will be left out. They will experience defeat and loss. It is in those moments we can point them to their Savior who loves them more than even we do. He will never leave them or forsake them. As they lean into the Good Shepherd, those trials will build muscles of faith and perseverance in them that will carry them into spiritual maturity, and then we will be thankful for those hard seasons.

What Does The Bible Say

Weekly Verse: Read Read 1Pe 1:3-12

1. According to verse 3, where does our hope come from?
2. What do trials in our lives do for us?
3. What is the goal of our faith (verse 9)?

What Do You Think

1. What is your first reaction when you are facing something hard in your life?
2. How do you think God wants you to respond to hard times?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God is using a trial for His glory?

What R U Going To Do

Make a list of some things in your life that are difficult right now (arguing with siblings, math grades, friendship problems, sickness). Begin praying specifically that God would help you through these trials and then record it when He does. He is a God who answers prayer!

Core Comp

Identity in Christ - I believe I am special because I am a child of God

Memory Verse

1 Peter 1:14 - *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.*

KIDPIX COUPON

I memorized my verse _____, completed Scrolls _____, brought Bible _____, brought a friend _____.

Series Discipleship Challenge located in KidPix Store.

Child's name _____ Grade ____ Parent's signature _____

Earn 1 token by completing the PantegoKids Bible study and another token by reciting the memory verse.
Questions: Kids@pantego.org

30 CORE COMPETENCIES

10 CORE BELIEFS

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation By Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9*

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 CORE PRACTICES

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33*

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money

2 Corinthians 8:7

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 CORE VIRTUES

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

About the Authors

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The mission of THE SCROLLS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices, and virtues of a follower of Jesus Christ called The 30 Core Competencies through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions or comments you may have about this lesson to Tom Bulick. His e-mail address is tbulick@pantego.org.