

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

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First Peter

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1 Peter

1 *I am* Peter, whom Jesus the Messiah sent *to represent him*. *I am writing this letter* to you whom God has chosen
to belong to himself. *I am writing to you* who are temporarily
living in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia,
and Bithynia, far away *from your true home in heaven*. 2 God
our Father *chose you* according to what he had already
decided. *He did this* by his Spirit, setting you apart in order
that you may obey *him* and in order that the death of Jesus
the Messiah may make you members of a covenant with
God. *I pray that* God will increase his kind acts toward you
and make you more peaceful.

3 Praise God, who is the Father of our Lord Jesus the
Messiah! Because he is very merciful to us, he has caused us
to experience the new birth by bringing Jesus the Messiah
back to life after he had died. *God did this* in order that we
would have hope that will never disappoint us, 4 *that is,* in
order that we might inherit what cannot perish, be defiled,
or fade, which is what God has kept for us in heaven. 5 God's
power is guarding you by means of your trust *in Jesus*. *He is guarding you* in order to reveal your salvation at the final
time *when Jesus returns to judge everyone*. 6 You rejoice a lot
because of what will happen then, even though now for a
short time many different hardships must grieve you. 7 *These hardships* happen in order to prove that you really trust *in Jesus*. *That trust* is more valuable to God than gold, which
someone can destroy even though someone has tested it
by *passing it through* fire. Because you trust in Jesus, God
will praise, glorify, and honor you when Jesus the Messiah
returns and reveals himself. 8 You love Jesus, although you
have not seen him. Although you do not see him now, you
trust him and rejoice with joy that you can hardly express,
9 because you are experiencing the result of trusting him:
God is saving you from the guilt of your sins.

10 *Long ago* prophets investigated very carefully about
God saving you. They spoke what God told them about God
graciously saving you. 11 They were trying to find out to
whom the Spirit of the Messiah that was in them was referring
to, and to what time the Spirit was referring to. *The Spirit was referring to these things* when he told them beforehand that the
Messiah would suffer and that glorious things would happen
afterwards. 12 God told these prophets that it was not for
their own benefit that he was revealing these things to them,
but that it was for your benefit. Those people who preached
the good news to you now have declared these things to you
by the Holy Spirit, whom God sent from heaven, *enabling them to do that*. Angels would like to know more about what
these people declared to you.

13 As a result of all these things, prepare your minds
for action. Be alert. Be completely confident that God will
graciously save you when Jesus the Messiah *returns and*
reveals himself. 14 Because you obey God like children ought
to obey their fathers, do not allow yourself to be controlled
by the *sinful* desires you used to have when you did not
know *the truth about God*. 15 Instead, just like God, the one
who chose you *to belong to him*, is holy, act in a holy manner
when you do anything. 16 Be holy, because Moses wrote *in the scriptures that God said*, "Be holy, because I am holy."

17 God is the one who judges what each person does,
and he judges without bias. Since you call him "Father,"
behave in a way that shows you fear him while you are
temporarily living *far away from your true home in heaven*.
18 *Behave in that way* because you know that *God paid to free you* from behaving foolishly, as your ancestors taught you
to behave. God did not pay to free you with things like silver
or gold that will not last forever. 19 Instead, *God paid for you to be free* by the Messiah's priceless death *on the cross*. *That death was* like *the deaths* of the entirely perfect lambs
that the Jewish priests sacrificed. 20 God chose him to do this
before he created the world. But *it was now,* in this last time
period, that God revealed him to you. 21 Because of what
the Messiah has done, you are trusting in God. He caused
the Messiah to become alive again after he had died and has
shown how great he is. As a result, you are trusting God and
expecting *him to do great things*.

22 Because you have made yourselves pure by obeying
the true teachings *of Jesus* in order to genuinely love other
believers, love each other sincerely and fervently. 23 *Do this* because God has caused you to experience the new birth. *You did not experience this new birth* by means of something that
will perish. Rather, *you experienced it* by means of something
that will never perish: the message *about Jesus* that came
from God and truly lasts forever. 24 *We know that this is true* because, *as the prophet Isaiah wrote,*

> "All people are like grass, and everything that is great
> about people is like flowers in the grass.
> Just as grass dies and flowers whither, *so do*
> *people die and what is great about them*
> *only lasts for a short time*,
> 25 but God's message lasts forever."

This message *that lasts forever* is the good news *about the Messiah* that we have declared to you.

2 Because *these things are true*, do not act wickedly or
deceive others in any way. Do not be hypocrites, and do
not envy others. Do not speak evil things falsely about anyone.
2 Just as newborn babies strongly desire their mothers' pure
milk, so you should strongly desire to learn true things about
God so that by *learning* them you may become spiritually
mature. *You must do this* until the time when God saves you
completely *from this sinful world*. 3 *You must do this* because
you have experienced that the Lord acts very kindly *toward you*.

4 You have come to the Lord Jesus. *He is like* a stone *that is part of a building, but he is* alive. Although people rejected
him, God chose him and greatly values him. 5 And you are
like stones that are alive. *Like men build houses with stones,* God is joining you together like a building in which his Spirit
dwells. *He is also making you* be like priests whom he has
set apart in order to do spiritual acts, pleasing to God, by
means of Jesus the Messiah. 6 What *Isaiah* wrote *that God had said* in Scripture shows us that this is true: "Pay attention!
I am placing in Jerusalem someone who is like the most
important stone in the building. I have chosen him. He is
very valuable. And anyone who trusts in him will surely
never be humiliated."

7 Therefore, *God* will honor you who believe in Jesus.
However, those who refuse to believe in him *are like the builders that someone wrote about in the Psalms*: "The stone

that the builders rejected has become the most important
stone in the building."
8 *Isaiah* also *wrote in the Scriptures that the Messiah would be like*

"a stone that causes people to stumble,
and a rock that offends people."

Just as people become injured because they trip over a rock,

people become offended because they disobey
God's message;
that is what God determined would happen to them.

9 In contrast *to them*, you *believers* are people whom God has chosen *for himself*. *You are* like a group of priests *who worship God* and rule *with him*. *You are* a people group that God has set apart *for himself*. *You are* a people who belong to God so that you might declare the praiseworthy things he has done. He has called you out of your former manner of living, when you were sinful and ignorant about God, and he has made you understand the wonderful true things about himself. 10 *What Hosea wrote is true about you* who used to be "no people group at all," but now are "God's people group." At one time "God had not acted mercifully toward you," but now "he has acted mercifully toward you."

11 Fellow believers whom I love, you are like foreigners *whose real home is in heaven*. So I urge you not to do the things that your sinful human natures want to do. Those desires will destroy you. 12 Behave well among those who do not know God in order that, concerning the things you are doing, which they falsely say are evil, they will see that you are *actually* doing good things and they will honor God when he comes to judge everyone.

13 In order to honor the Lord Jesus, obey everyone who has power *to govern people*. This includes the king, because he has the greatest *human* power. 14 It also includes governors, because the king has sent them to punish those who do evil things and to praise those who do good things. 15 *Obey those who govern people,* because this is what God wants: *He wants you* to do good things in order to stop fools *who do not know God* from being able to ignorantly say that you have done evil things. 16 *Obey those who govern people* as people who are free to do so voluntarily, but do not try to use your status as free people to hide evil deeds. Instead, *obey* as those who serve God should. 17 Be respectful to everyone. Love all *your* fellow believers. Revere God. Be respectful to the king.

18 You household slaves *who are believers*, submit to your masters with a completely reverent attitude. *Do this* not only to those *masters* who act very kindly toward you but also to those who act unjustly toward you. 19 *Submit to your masters,* because this is something that God prefers—if someone endures hardships and suffers undeservedly because that person is aware of who God is *and what he wants*. 20 *Submit to your masters,* because there is certainly no honor for you if you endure when someone beats you because you have sinned. However, this is something that God favors: if you endure when you suffer even though you did what is good. 21 *God favors this* because he has called you to suffer while doing what is good. *He has called you to this* because the Messiah also suffered for your sake in order to be an example for you with the purpose that you would imitate what he did.

22 "He never sinned.
And he never said anything to deceive people."
23 When people insulted him, he never insulted
them in return.
When he suffered, he never threatened *those who caused him to suffer*.
Instead, he trusted God, who always judges rightly,
to prove that he was innocent.
24 The Messiah himself was punished for our sins in his
body *when he died* on the cross with the
purpose that we would live rightly because
we are no longer controlled by sin.

God has healed you because people wounded the Messiah.
25 *God healed you* because you were *alienated from God* like sheep that had become lost, but now God has brought you back to Jesus, who cares for you and watches over you *as a shepherd cares for his sheep*.

3 In a similar way, you women *who are believers*, submit to your husbands. *Do this* in order that you may persuade any husbands who do not believe the message *about the Messiah* to become believers without you saying anything to them. 2 *They will believe in the Messiah* because they see that you behave sincerely and *act* reverently *toward them*.
3 Do not make the outside of your bodies beautiful by having fancy hairstyles or by wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes.
4 Instead, make your unseen mind beautiful in a way that will never fade. I mean, have a humble and peaceful attitude. This is something that God values very much. 5 *Do this* because this is the way that the women who lived holy lives long ago made themselves beautiful. They trusted in God and submitted to their husbands. 6 Sarah, for example, obeyed her husband Abraham and called him *her* master. God will consider you to be her daughters if you do good deeds and are not afraid of anything terrible happening to you.

7 You men *who are believers*, in a similar way, dwell together with your wives in an understanding manner. *Treat them* as *you would treat* someone who is weaker *than you are*. Honor them as those who will also receive God's gracious gift with you, which is eternal life. *Do this* so that nothing will hinder you from praying.

8 To end *this part of my letter*, *I say to* all of you, have the same mindset *among yourselves*. Be sympathetic *toward each other*. Love each other as fellow believers. Act compassionately *toward each other*. Be humble. 9 When people do evil things to you or insult you, do not do the same to them. Instead, bless them, because that is what God has chosen you to do in order that he may bless you. 10 *We know that this is true* because, *as David wrote,*

"As for those who truly want to enjoy good lives,
they must not say evil things or speak deceitful things.
11 They must also refuse to do evil, and do
what is good *instead*.
They must diligently strive to have peaceful
relationships with other people.
12 *They must do these things,* because the Lord
watches over righteous people.
He listens *and responds* to the prayers of
righteous people,
but he opposes people who do evil."

13 It is unlikely that anyone will harm you if you are
eager to do what is good. 14 However, even if you suffer
because you did what was right, God will bless you. “Do
not be afraid of or troubled by the things that other people
fear.” 15 Instead, acknowledge in your minds that the Lord
Messiah is holy. Always be ready to answer anyone who asks
you to tell them about what you are confidently expecting
God to do for you. 16 But *answer them* humbly and reverently,
while not doing any wicked thing, in order that God may
shame those who despise the good things you do as people
united with the Messiah. *God will shame them* regarding
the very things they are speaking falsely against you. 17 *Do these
things* because, if God wants *you to suffer*, it is better for you
to suffer because you did what is good than *to suffer* because
you did what is evil. 18 *This is true* because the Messiah also
suffered. *He suffered* one time for the sake of *other people’s*
sins. He was a righteous person *who died* for the benefit of
unrighteous people. *He died* in order to enable you to be
with God. Although people killed him, God’s Spirit caused
him to become alive again. 19 The Spirit also enabled him
to go and announce *God’s victory* to the *evil* spirits whom
God had imprisoned. 20 *Those evil spirits* disobeyed God long
ago, during the lifetime of Noah. When Noah was building
a big boat, God waited patiently *to see if people would stop
doing what is evil*. *Only* a few people *were saved* in that boat.
Specifically, God brought only eight people safely through the
waters *of the flood*. 21 That water is a symbol that represents
the baptism which now saves you. *This baptism* does not
wash dirt off of your bodies. Instead, it shows that we are
asking God to assure us that he has forgiven our sins. *This
baptism saves you* by means of God having caused Jesus the
Messiah to become alive again. 22 After God caused every
evil and powerful spirit to submit to him, the Messiah went
to heaven, where he is at the place of highest honor next to
God.

4 Therefore, because the Messiah physically suffered,
prepare yourselves *to suffer as Christians* by thinking
about suffering the way that Jesus thought *about suffering*.
Do this because those who physically suffer are no longer
involved in sin 2 in order that they would not do the things
that sinful people want to do during the rest of their lives.
Instead, they live to do the things that God wants them to do.
3 *I say that to you* because you have already used too much
of your lifetime doing what the people who do not know
God like to do. *Like them,* you committed sexually immoral
and lustful acts, got drunk, participated in immoral parties
and drinking parties, and worshiped idols, which God has
forbidden. 4 Regarding those things, people who do not know
God are surprised that you do not join with them *anymore*
when they do these recklessly immoral things. As a result,
they say bad things *about you*. 5 *One day* these people will
have to admit to God *everything that they have done*. He is
the one who will judge all people. 6 This is the reason why
people preached the good news *about Jesus* to *believers who
are now* dead: in order that *those believers* who, although
people judged them according to human *standards* during
their lifetimes, by means of the Holy Spirit *now* live *forever*
according to God’s *standards*. 7 All things *on this earth* will
soon end. So think sensibly and clearly in order to pray well.
8 Most important of all, love each other sincerely, because if
you love others, you will forgive them for many sins *that they
may commit against you*. 9 Provide food and a place to sleep
for fellow Christians *who come to you*, and do it cheerfully.
10 Serve your fellow believers with the gifts that God has
given you. Manage well the various gifts that God has kindly
given you. 11 Those who speak *should speak* as if *they were
speaking* words that God has spoken. Those who serve *others
should serve them* with the strength that God gives them. *Do
so* in order to glorify God by *doing* everything that Jesus the
Messiah enables you to do. I pray that everyone will see how
glorious and powerful he is forever. May it be so! 12 Fellow
believers whom I love, do not be surprised by the painful
things you are experiencing. *Those things* are testing you *as
people test metal by putting it into a* fire. *Do not think that*
something unusual is happening to you. 13 Instead, rejoice
to the degree that you are suffering the same kinds of things
that the Messiah suffered. *Rejoice when you suffer,* in order
that you may also be very glad when the Messiah returns and
shows everyone how glorious he is. 14 If other people insult
you because you believe in the Messiah, God has blessed you,
because *your suffering* shows that the Spirit of God, the Spirit
who reveals how great God is, dwells within you. 15 Make
sure that you do not suffer because you murdered anyone or
stole anything or did some other kind of evil thing or because
you interfered in someone else’s affairs. 16 But do not be
ashamed if you suffer because you are a Christian. Instead,
praise God that you have the name “Christian.” 17 *I say this*
because it is now time for God to begin judging people, and
first he will judge those who belong to him. Since *he will
judge* us believers first, think about what *terrible things* will
finally happen to those who do not obey the good news that
comes from him! 18 *Solomon* also *wrote in the Scriptures*,

> “If righteous people must suffer many difficult
> trials before going to heaven,
> how much more will the ungodly and sinful
> people surely suffer!”

19 Therefore, those who are suffering because God wants
them to suffer should trust God with their lives while continuing
to do what is good. God is the one who created them, and
he always does what he promises to do.

5 Now I*, Peter,* urge those among you who are elders
who lead the assemblies of believers; *I am also* an elder. I
personally witnessed the Messiah suffer, and I will share in
his glorious nature that God will soon reveal. 2 *You elders,*
take care of the believers with you as if you were shepherds
who take care of their flocks of sheep. *Take care of them*
not because you must do it, but because you really want
to, as God desires. Do not *do this* in a greedy manner *to get
money for doing it*, but do it enthusiastically. 3 Do not act like
domineering bosses over the people whom God has assigned
to you. Instead, be *good* examples to those believers *by how
you conduct your lives*. 4 *If you do those things,* then when
Jesus, who is like our ruling shepherd, appears, he will give
each of you *leaders* a reward. *That reward will be* glorious
and will last forever.

5 In a similar way, you young men, obey the elders *who
lead the assemblies of believers*. Now all of you *believers* should
act humbly toward each other because *what Solomon wrote
in the Scriptures is true:* “God opposes proud people, but he
acts kindly toward humble people.”

6 Since that is true, humble yourselves before God, who
has the power *to save and to punish people,* in order that he
may honor you at the proper time. 7 Trust God to take care
of everything that worries you because he cares about you.

8 Think clearly and alertly, *because* the devil is your enemy,
and he is going around, looking for people to destroy. He is
like a lion that roars as it searches for people to kill and eat.
9 Resist the devil by continuing to firmly trust *in the Messiah
and his message*. *Do this* because you know that your fellow
believers all over the world are suffering in similar ways.
10 But after you have suffered for a brief time, the God who
acts kindly *toward you* in every way will himself restore *what
you have lost* and will completely strengthen you in every
way. God is the one who chose you to experience his glorious
presence in heaven forever as you are joined to the Messiah.
11 I pray that he will rule powerfully forever. May it be so!

12 Silas has written this letter for me *as I have dictated
it to him*. I consider him to be a faithful fellow believer. I
have written this short letter to you in order to encourage
you and to declare to you that what I have written is about
the true and gracious message from God. Continue to firmly
believe this message!

13 In *this city that we call* "Babylon," the believers, whom
God has chosen *to belong to him* just like he chose you, send
their regards to you. Mark, who is like a son to me, also *sends
his regards to you*. 14 Affectionately greet each other with a
kiss to show that you love each other. I pray that God will
continue to make all you who are joined to the Messiah feel
peaceful.