

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

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.