



# HOPE

## IN THE DARKNESS

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Studies in I Peter



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**Life Between Strangers**

**I Peter 4:7-11**

# INTRODUCTION:

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- ***1 Peter 4:2 – So as to live the rest of the time in the flesh . . .***

Verses 1-6 – Alien Armour – How Strangers Differ from the Gentiles

- ***1 Peter 4:7 – The end of all things is near . . .***

Verses 7-11 – Life Between Strangers – How Strangers Act Toward Other Strangers



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# Develop Clear-Minded Self-Control

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- This means (especially in the context of the end times) Christians should be neither fanatical nor slothful.
- This is contrary to the excessive, passionate sinful pursuits of those who don't know God.
- This is for the purpose of prayer. Prayer!



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# Develop Clear-Minded Self-Control

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“An expectant attitude toward Christ’s return involves a serious, balanced mind and an alert, awake prayer life. The test of our commitment to the doctrine of Christ’s return is not our ability to draw charts or discern signs, but our thinking and praying. If our thinking and praying are right, our living should be right.” – Warren Wiersbe



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# Love One Another

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- Christian love is primary.
- Christians strain to love one another.
- Christians delight in covering sin rather than fueling or flaunting sin.
  - This is a quote from *Proverbs 10:12* – *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.*
  - “Covering sin” means addressing sin humbly, selectively, and privately.



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# Host One Another

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- Hospitality comes from the Greek word meaning “love of strangers”. It means “to be disposed to treat guests and strangers with cordiality and generosity.”
- Hospitality is a whole-Bible concept, but was especially important in the early church.
- Hospitality should be without complaining.



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# Host One Another

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- ***Two Common Obstacles to Biblical Hospitality***
  - **Passivity** – Lack of Attention or Interest in the Needs of Others
  - **Pride** – Pressure for Unnecessary or Excessive Preparation



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# Serve One Another

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- ***Four Key Principles Regarding Spiritual Gifts***
  - Principle #1 – Everyone has at least one spiritual gift.
  - Principle #2 – Our spiritual gifts are entrustments to be stewarded for God and others.
  - Principle #3 – Speakers should understand they are speaking for God.
  - Principle #4 – Servants should serve in God's strength.



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# God's Glory . . .

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- The goal of our self-control and togetherness.
- The intended and certain end of all things.



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# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

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1. Would your disposition, in light of the end being near, be described as clear- minded and self- controlled?
2. Would your love for other strangers be described as  fervent?
3. Would your hospitality toward other strangers be described as  eager and  happy?



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# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

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4. Would your use of your spiritual gifts be described as faithful and dependent?
5. Do you think, love, host and serve with the goal of glorifying God?



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