



***Equipped for the Inevitable
“Responding to Grace”***

1 Peter 1:13-17

A person who has truly been born again by the Spirit has a natural desire to do something that reflects his or her appreciation for the grace God has shown through Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection. In addition, when one’s understanding reaches a level that embraces the work of the Holy Spirit through sanctification, that desire to show appreciation to God increases.

In chapter 1:1-12, Peter described salvation’s supreme place in God’s foreordained plan, explained its marvelous promise of eternal inheritance, and proclaimed its intrinsic greatness. Then in verse 13 Peter shifts from describing and explaining the nature of salvation to an imperative mode. He starts commanding those who have received it to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities divine salvation places on its recipients.

Peter helps us to know the way in which we can show the Lord how much we love Him for what He has done for us. We do this by accepting these obligations, which are summarized in three words: hope, holiness and honor.

***** Authentic faith shows itself in the believer who responds to grace with hope.***
(1 Peter 1:13)

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Basically defined, **hope** is the believer’s attitude toward the future. In its essence, **hope** is equivalent to faith; it is trusting God. The major difference between the two attitudes is that faith involves trusting God in the present, whereas hope is the future faith, trusting God for what is to come.

Faith appropriates what God has already said and done in His revealed Word. **Hope** anticipates what He will yet do, as promised in Scripture. So, we are not to half-heartedly sort of hope, but we are to hope with finality, without any doubt.

***** Authentic faith shows itself in the believer who responds to grace with holiness.***
(1 Peter 1:14-16)

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

Believers living in anticipation of the return of Christ and considering its full significance will be motivated to live in holiness. The apostle John writes, ***“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who those hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3)***

Genuine hope results in purity of life or holiness. This holiness is seen in our obedience to the truths and principles of God’s Word. This is not some checklist invented by men for the sake of what one feels will impress God.

Obedience is the inevitable result of salvation, yet Peter urges us to live consistent with the longings of the new heart by pursuing holiness. Holiness is obedience; obedience is holiness.

***** Authentic faith shows itself in the believer who responds to grace in honor.
(1 Peter 1:17)***

“And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile...”

Inseparably linked to our obligation to respond to salvation in hope and holiness is our responsibility to honor God. The phrase, ***“...conduct yourselves with fear...”*** meaning, ***“reverence,” “awe,”*** and ***“respect”*** toward God is the command in the sentence.

Peter does not want us to forget that even though we have an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father, we must conduct ourselves in holiness. We should exhibit this awe and respect during our time on earth, because God is the one who observes and rewards our life of obedience.

How we conduct ourselves before His omniscient presence matters in both time and eternity. Paul’s testimony to the Thessalonian believers is a pattern for all believers:

“You are witnesses, and God also, how holy righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.” (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

cd.TCT.72317