



## **Vibrant Faith WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **OVERVIEW**

In this message of the series entitled, *Out of Darkness - A Study in the Book of 1 Peter*, we will truly learn how to live a vibrant, overcoming life.

### **DISCUSSION**

**1 Peter 1:1: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...** Christianity was spreading rapidly in many parts of the world but was not readily accepted. Because of their faith, they were not accepted by the Jewish people or the pagan Gentiles. The people he wrote to were not only exiles, but they also experienced suffering because they were different than the culture around them. They were saved, and on fire for God, yet they were really spiritual pilgrims. A pilgrim is one who journeys in foreign lands, from one land to another. In the same way – for us as Believers, this world is not our home. We are journeying from this land to our home in Heaven.

- How does the concept of being "exiles" and "spiritual pilgrims" resonate with the challenges and experiences that Christians face in the world today? In what ways do modern believers feel like strangers in their own culture?
- The recipients of Peter's letter were "on fire for God" despite their suffering and being different from the culture around them. What can we learn from their example about maintaining a strong faith and sense of purpose in the face of adversity?

### **Three Aspects of Faith:**

#### **1. Vibrant Faith.**

In 1 Peter 1:1-5, Peter first introduces his identity, then reminds them of their identity in Christ:

- You're chosen of God. You're sprinkled by the blood of Jesus.
- You're abundantly covered in both grace and peace.
- You've been given a new birth. You have a living hope.
- You have an irrevocable, eternal inheritance. You're shielded.
- You're preserved and kept by the power of God.

The foundation of coming out of darkness and living a transformed life begins with our identity. There are many Types of Faith people engage in:

- Hand-Me-Down Faith
- Up-In-My-Head Faith
- Slot Machine Faith
- Vibrant Faith

Vibrant Faith is not only a mental acknowledgment of something, but is the belief in its actuality and its validity. Vibrant faith can be expressed in Christianity when we truly believe in the deity of Christ and in His sacrifice for our sins—when we put our trust in the finished work of Christ to save us from all our sins and shortcomings.

- What kind of faith were you introduced to as a child?
- How would you describe your faith today?

2. Tested Faith.

**1 Peter 1:6** continues: *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.* Peter doesn't focus on defining what trials are—he focuses on what trials accomplish within us. We can experience both great joy and deep pain simultaneously as we walk with Jesus.

We will all go through the fire at times, but, if we can understand the purpose of it, our attitude will be different. **1 Peter 1:7** says, *These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. This tested faith of ours will go through fire – just like gold.* Tests reveal the places where we don't trust God. And He allows trials and tests in order to purify our faith—He always uses them for good.

- How do trials reveal areas of our lives where we may lack trust in God? What are some practical ways we can strengthen our faith when facing trials and difficulties?
- Can you share personal experiences where your faith was tested, and how did you find joy amidst the trials?

3. Results of faith.

**1 Peter 1:8-9:** *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, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* If we respond correctly, trials lead us to trust God, even when we cannot see Him. They can even bring us amazing joy and produce strength, patience, perseverance, and more.

Remember **Verse 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,* Where does vibrant faith originate? Vibrant faith begins as a gift from God! If we will be open and diligently seek God, He will reveal himself to us, and will give us faith – faith to believe.

- What can we do today to start building our faith?

## LIFE CHALLENGE

Take time to review the types of faith in point #1, and evaluate where you stand in your relationship with God. Spend time with God, and ask what steps you need to take to grow closer to Him and strengthen your faith.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER