**1 Pet. 1:17-19:** 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, [18] knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

**Intro:** Peter is teaching his hearers how to suffer well. Last time we were in 1 Peter, we focused on the centrality of the return of Christ in the life of the believer. The first command in this letter: **V. 14:** "set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." We also focused on pursuing holiness: pursue conformity to the image of Jesus. In view of your great salvation in Jesus Christ, when you suffer: pursue **hope** & pursue **holiness**! **Fear!**

**Also, in the midst of suffering, remember:** Fear God because He is your Father, He will judge impartially, & He has ransomed you with the precious blood of Christ!

**1. Fear God Because God Is Your Father**
**1 Pet. 1:17:** And if you call on him as Father

**a. Do you know God as Father?** Notice the "if" in this verse: **GOSPEL!**
**- Jn. 1:12-13:** to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**b. God is your perfect, holy, loving, kind, & good, good Father: Rom. 8:15:** you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

**- J. I. Packer (Knowing God):** Adoption is the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification . . . To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved & cared for by God the Father is greater . . . If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, & having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts & controls his worship & prayers & his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.
**- Justin Taylor:** He says that if he were to focus the New Testament message in three words, he would choose: "adoption through propitiation" "I do not expect," he writes, "ever to meet a richer or more pregnant summary of the gospel than that." How would Packer summarize the whole of New Testament teaching? "a revelation of the Fatherhood of the holy Creator." He summarizes the whole of New Testament religion as "the knowledge of God as one's holy Father." . . . Packer says that each of us should ask ourselves the following questions: "Do I, as a Christian, understand myself?" "Do I know my own real identity?" "My own real destiny?" Calling this "the Christian's secret of a Christian life & of a God-honoring life," he says that we should take the following truths & "Say it over & over to yourself first thing in the morning, last thing at night, as you wait for the bus, any time your mind is free, & ask that you may be enabled to live as one who knows it is all utterly & completely true." "I am a child of God. God is my Father. Heaven is my home. Every day is one day nearer. My Savior is my brother. Every Christian is my brother too."

Fear God because He is your Father!

**2. Fear God Because God Will Judge Impartially**

**1 Pet. 1:17:** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds

**a. God the Father judges:** This is one reason we should fear God. He is going to judge. He knows everything that you say, think, feel, & do. Nothing is hidden from Him. & everyone will give an account to God on the day of judgment. Every idle word, Jesus says.

**- What about Jn. 5:22-23?:** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, [23] that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

**- John Piper:** I think when he says that, he doesn't mean that the Father is not involved at all in judgment, but that he's not involved in judgment without the Son. "The Father judges no one" means, I think, "The Father judges no one apart from the Son." & I say that because eight verses later, Jesus says, "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, & my judgment is just because I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me" (John 5:30). In other words, both God the Father & God the Son say, "I don't judge anyone without perfect harmony between my will & my Father's will," or "my will & my Son's will."

**- Acts 17:30-31:** The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, [31] because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed . . . .

**b. God the Father judges impartially: Webster's 1828:** Indifference of opinion or judgment; freedom from bias in favor of one side or party more than another; justice

**- Deut. 16:19:** You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, & you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise & subverts the cause of the righteous.

**c. God the Father judges impartially according to each one's deeds:** There will be a judgment according to works for both believers & unbelievers on the last day. [Grudem: Discipline, wrong]

**- Matt. 16:27:** he [the Son of man] will repay each person according to what he has done.

**- Rom. 2:6-8:** He will render to each one according to his works: [7] to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory & honor & immortality, he will give eternal life; [8] but for those who are self-seeking & do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

**- Col. 3:5-6:** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, & covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

**- For believers: John Piper:** I like to think for example of the thief on the cross. Ok, a lifetime of sin – all he did was sin for what? Forty years? He's dying, may begin by cursing . . . The Spirit blew where it wills . . . This man's repenting. He's crying out for mercy. & Jesus says, "See you in Paradise today." That man will experience the judgment according to works. What will he have? Not many. Half an hour's worth? But they're sweet. & they're real! So the file will be opened, alright, the books & the book. We got the book of life, & you got the books. These books are really thick. Everything you've ever done! Every idle word, Jesus says, everything. They're all written down. So this man's file is getting picked up like this. Wow! & every one is "F"! His grades are all "F"! Pick them up. Throw them out. He's got a little teeny file at the back. & in it is: "Heart was broken for his sin; Recognized Savior; Lovingly exhorted his comrade in evil; Died." & the LORD

will hold this up to the whole universe [& say]: "He was real! He trusted my Son! This is the evidence!" So that had he ever read a commandment in the Bible that says: "You will not enter into the Kingdom without a work." He'd know how to interpret it. The work isn't the ground of his acceptance. The work was the fruit of this amazing opening of his heart, believing in Jesus, being justified, & the fruit for fifteen minutes? half an hour? an hour? And that goes written down.

Fear God because He will hold you accountable (He will judge)!

**3. Fear God Because The Bible Tells You To Fear God**
**1 Pet. 1:17:** conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile

**a. Fear God when? This world is not our home:** They were exiles; we are exiles; we are looking for a heavenly country; our citizenship is in heaven: **Phil. 3:20:** But our citizenship is in heaven, & from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ . . . .

**b. What is this fear? This is the fear of the LORD: 1 Pet. 2:16-17:** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. [17] Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**- Ps. 147:11:** The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him . . . .
**1) Fearing the LORD means you know God as Savior & He knows you for salvation:**
**Ps. 25:14:** The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, & he makes known to them his covenant; **Ps. 111:10:** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

**2) Fearing the LORD means you hate evil: Prov. 8:13:** The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.
**John Piper:** When we are tempted to conduct ourselves in a way that would show that our hope is in money rather than God, we should fear. When we are tempted to act in a way that would show that our hope is in the pleasure of pornography instead of God, we should fear . . . Fear living in ways that betray your lack of satisfaction in God.

**3) Fearing the LORD means you will keep His commandments: Deut. 6:1-2:** Now this is the commandment – the statutes & the rules – that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, [2] that you may fear the LORD your God, you & your son & your son's son, by keeping all his statutes & his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, & that your days may be long.
**- Eccl. 12:13:** Fear God & keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

**4) Fearing the LORD means fearing Him & nothing else: 1 Pet. 3:5-6:** For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, [6] as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. & you are her children, if you do good & do not fear anything that is frightening.
**- 1 Pet. 3:14-15:** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy

**5) Fearing the LORD means fearing His judgment in hell: Matt. 5:29:** If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out & throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
**- Matt. 10:28:** do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul & body in hell.
**- 1 Cor. 9:27:** I discipline my body & keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- If the Apostle Paul ran his race in the Christian life with this healthy, godly, Christ-loving, grace-filled fear of disqualification from heaven, so should we. He wrote Rom. 8 & 1 Cor. 9!

**6) Fearing the LORD means fearing Him as one who is forgiven & safe: Ps. 130:3-4:** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

**John Piper:** If you are his child, fear God not as your enemy, but fear him as one who was once was your enemy & still is infinite in power & holiness. If you were stranded on a windy ledge fifty stories above the street & about to lose your balance & suddenly a policeman grabbed you & brought you to safety inside the building, you would not stop trembling just because you were safe. The height is still in your mind. The wind is still in your mind. The weakness & the vulnerability are still in your mind. But now you are totally secure. This trembling is different than when you were on the ledge. **[German Shepherd Dog Illustration]**

**7) Fearing the LORD means trusting Him: Ps. 115:11:** You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD

**Summary: Charles Spurgeon:** By the term, "the fear of God," we understand in Holy Scripture the totality of true religion. We do not mean by the fear of God, the slavish fear which trembles in God's presence, as the poor slave trembles under his master's lash, but that childlike fear which fears to offend, which fears to be led into error – a reverential fear such as the angels have when they veil their faces with their wings & cast their crowns before the glorious throne – to have such a fear of God before our eyes as to restrain our wandering passions, to keep our hands from doing evil, & our tongues from speaking the thing which is not right; to have such a fear of God that we feel as though we were in God's presence, & act, & speak, & think as though we fully recognized the eye that reads the secrets of the heart. When we read, therefore, that the eye of the Lord is on "those who fear him," we are to understand that he has gracious regard towards those who delight in him, who worship him, & are his children.

To fear the LORD is to know Him & to be in a personal relationship with Him & to worship Him with reverence & awe! It's to turn from your sin & fear His wrath & trust in Him & follow Him & obey Him & live for Him & delight in Him above all else!

**8) The fear of the LORD is the Christian's delight & comfort: Acts 9:31:** So the church throughout all Judea & Galilee & Samaria had peace & was being built up. & walking in the fear of the Lord & in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

**9) Those who fear the LORD are His delight & give Him pleasure: Ps. 147:10-11:** He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Fear God because the Bible tells you to fear God! **1 Pet. 1:17:** conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile

**4. Fear God Because You Have Been Ransomed With The Precious Blood Of Christ**
**1 Pet. 1:18-19:** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

**a. What does it mean to be ransomed? Webster's 1828:** The money or price paid for the redemption of a prisoner or slave, or for goods captured by an enemy
- Release from captivity, bondage or the possession of an enemy.
- In law, a sum paid for the pardon of some great offense & the discharge of the offender; or a fine paid in lieu of corporal punishment.
- The price paid for procuring the pardon of sins & the redemption of the sinner from punishment.
Matt. 20:28: The Son of man came - to give his life a ransom for many.

**b. Jesus ransomed sinners with His precious blood: Rev. 5:9:** they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll & to open its seals, for you were slain, & by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe & language & people & nation

**c. Why fear?: John Piper:** Fear conducting yourself in any way that shows that the blood of Jesus Christ is not precious to you.
**- Charles Spurgeon:** If Christ has died for me, ungodly as I am, without strength as I am, then I cannot live in sin any longer, but must arouse myself to love & serve Him who has redeemed me. I cannot trifle with the evil that killed my best Friend. I must be holy for His sake. How can I live in sin when He has died to save me from it?

Fear God because He has ransomed you with the precious blood of Christ!

**- Looking unto Jesus: Isa. 11:3:** his [the Messiah's] delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
**- Heb. 5:7:** in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers & supplications, with vehement cries & tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, & was heard because of His godly fear

Christ Jesus' Blood Is Greatest Prize
Infinite In Worth And Size
Will Never Perish – Always Buys
All For Whom He'd Bleed And Dies
Bore All God's Wrath And Curse With Cries
But Rose Again – O'er Death He'd Rise

Fear God Who Judges – Knows All Lies
He Is Impartial – God All Wise
He Is Your Father Who Supplies
Your Every Need With Sweet Surprise
Every Sin You Hate – Despise
For Jesus Is Your Greatest Prize!