

Serving in the Middle of Suffering

Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Why in the world would Apostle Peter challenge believers to serve during a time of being scattered and persecuted?

1. Because _____ modeled serving while suffering.
2. Because this is how the early _____ combatted conflict
3. Because Jesus is coming back soon, and we need the church to be _____ minded.

Verse 7, "But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."

- Every area of _____ is getting shaken.
 - The Hollywood _____ industry has finally been getting exposed for their demonic antics.
 - I think being watchful in prayer means to _____ to what is happening in the world around you (so you know what to pray for), but pay more attention to what God is showing you when you spend time with Him in the _____.
 - Corey Russell says, "there's gonna be great _____ and great _____ in the coming days."
 - Since this year has began I have noticed an increase in spiritual warfare but also an increase in God's grace. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is speaking to and preparing the bride of Christ so evidently right now. We've got to be watchful in our prayers.

Verse 8, "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'"

- When we go through the fire, our _____ gets tested.
- The good news is that our love for God and our love for people grows if we pass the _____.
- It's called _____ to our self.

Verse 9, "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."

- Some countries see more miracles because they have to. We should be grateful for the services we currently have in this country.

Verse 10, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

- You should use your gifts from God to _____ God.
- Even in the midst of persecution, we're still commanded to _____ God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
 - In the Greek, the word for gift is *charisma* – the same word used for gifts of the spirit in 1 Corinthians 12.
 - His grace and power is sufficient even in our weakness - 2 Cor. 12:9

Verse 11, "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

- That word oracles in the Greek is _____
 - It means an _____ of God, or you can say "a message from God."
 - Logos: God's _____ word
 - Rhema: God's _____ word.
- God is raising up _____ voices and mouthpieces for the Lord.
- Francis Chan at Jesus 23 said, "We have too many voices, we need more _____."
- Minister: _____
 - "It's amazing how much the American church has accomplished without the Holy Spirit."
 - When we serve, we need _____. Not just grace.

Letters to the Church by Francis Chan – 5 Pillars in the underground house church movement

1. Deep Commitment to Prayer
2. Studying The Word of God
3. Preaching of the Gospel (Everyone preaches)
4. Regular Expectation of Miracles
5. Embrace Suffering for the Glory of Jesus

