

1 Peter “Walk the Talk” GROW Study: Session 3 Life Fellowship Church

- Welcome
- Begin session with Prayer
- Anyone new today?
- Teaching Outlines Available for download at
- www.ronchandler.com/OutlineDownloads.htm

Class: Walk the Talk – 7 Sessions

- 1. *The Battle for Holiness: 1 Peter 1: 13-16.....Today*
- 2. *When I Don't Feel Like Being Good: 1 Peter 1: 17-25...TODAY*
- 3. *An Appetite for Being Good: 1 Peter 2: 1-12.....Feb 7*
- 4. *Refuse to Get Revenge: 1 Peter 2: 19-25.....Feb 14*
- 5. *Learn to Live in Peace: 1 Peter 3: 8-17.....Feb 21*
- 6. *Get Ready for a Rough Ride: 1 Peter 4: 1-19.....Feb 28*
- 7. *You're in Good Hands: 1 Peter 5: 5-11.....Mar 7*

Review – Session 1 & 2

1. *The Battle for Holiness: 1 Peter 1: 13-16*
 - A. *Who, What, When, Where, & Why of 1 Peter*
 - B. *Themes*
 - i. *To be holy, you must prepare your mind for action.*
 - ii. *To be holy, you must think differently.*
 - iii. *To be holy, you must learn to concentrate on God rather than your own efforts.*
2. *When I Don't Feel Like Being Good: 1 Peter 1: 17-25*
 - A. *Being good means living a life that is consistently obedient to God's will – choosing to do the right thing day in, day out*
 - B. *Being good may be easy to define, but it's not always easy to do.*
 - C. *So what if you don't feel like being good.*
 - D. *Being good opens the door to God's blessing in your life.*
 - E. *Being good is the right response to the goodness of God.*
 - F. *Being good makes you qualified to spread goodness to others.*
 - G. *Ethics, morality, and integrity.*

Session 3: An Appetite for Being Good

- Theme: Mastering the Christian life is like mastering other things: it's a matter of doing the basics again and again.
- Scripture Reference: 1 Peter 2: 1-12
- Teaching Points: 4 basic elements to spiritual growth to develop an appetite for obedience:
 1. Read the Bible
 2. Declare God's praise
 3. Identify with God's people

4. Avoid sinful situations

1 Peter 2: 1-12

1. Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,”

1 Peter 2: 1-12

⁸and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

PART 1: Identify the Current Issue

- A. When a baby is born, all the nutrition that baby needs is found in mother’s milk.
- B. The child grows and develops as it should exclusively on a diet of mother’s milk for several months.
- C. But eventually there comes a time when the child has to move on to other things, such as strained vegetables.
- D. Then, of course, it isn’t long before they’re eating mashed potatoes, corn, hotdogs, Happy Meals, and pizza.
- E. Though it lasts only a few months, there is a period of time when a baby can thrive on nothing but a diet of pure milk.
- F. Even though the baby outgrows its need for pure milk, the believer never does.
 - ▶ There are some basic elements of spiritual nurture—Peter refers to them as “pure spiritual milk”—that all baby Christians need to grow spiritually
 - ▶ but even 10, 20, and 30 years later, the Christian needs that “pure spiritual milk.”
 - ▶ We go deeper by doing the basics again and again (repetition)
 - ▶ The martial art called Tai Chi - a practice of mastering seven basic movements.
 - ▶ The obstacle to most students’ advancement is not that the technique is too difficult, but that it’s too simple.
 - ▶ They have a hard time believing they can become Tai Chi experts simply by mastering a few simple moves.
 - ▶ Most things that seem complex are this way.
 - ▶ Many people are intimidated by computers.

- ▶ A school's computer network had gone down, so they called in a computer technician to fix the problem.
- ▶ He quickly surveyed the situation, shut down the network server, reached his hand behind the computer, then turned the server back on. The problem was fixed.
- ▶ The administrator asked him what he had done.
- ▶ The technician was absolutely honest with her. He said, "I jiggled a cable."
- ▶ He then gave her a bill for \$125.
- ▶ She balked at the amount, saying, "How can you charge \$125 when all you did was jiggle a cable?"
- ▶ He shrugged his shoulder and said, "Because I'm the one who knew which cable to jiggle."

Discussion starters:

- What do you think is the pure spiritual milk Peter refers to in 1 Peter 2:2?
- What do you think it means to grow up in your salvation?
- What things have caused you to grow the most in your faith so far?

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **1. Read the Bible.**
 - Read 1 Peter 1:24–25
 - For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." (Is 40:6-8)
 - Most people think that good Christians read the Bible.
 - But actually, that's getting the equation backwards.
 - It's really that people who read the Bible become good Christians.
 - The Bible is God's Word to us.
 - It tells us how to live—
 - it challenges
 - Motivates
 - Comforts
 - Encourages
 - and inspires us.
 - When we read the Bible, we become changed by its influence if we read it with a heart that is willing to be taught.
 - We have all known people who seem to know a lot of Bible verses, but they only use them as ammunition against other people.
 - They are missing the point of reading Scripture. We don't read the Bible to find out what's wrong with everyone else; we read it to find out what's wrong with us.

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **1. Read the Bible.**
 - When you read the Bible, ask yourself these questions,
 - "God what are you saying to me?"
 - What do I need to do?
 - What do I need to change about the way I think or act?
 - Is there a sin I need to confess?

- Is there a promise I need to believe?
- Is there an action I need to avoid?
- Is there a command I need to obey?
- Is there an example I need to follow?"
- One of the key elements of "pure spiritual milk" is the Word of God, and we will never outgrow our need for its daily input in our lives.

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

Questions:

- *Why does the Word of the Lord stand forever?*
- *What does that tell us about our need for it?*
- *How does our love for God's Word reflect our love (or lack of love) for him?*
- *What hinders you from regularly reading God's Word? How might you get past those hindrances?*

Which of the following methods of learning God's Word do you enjoy most?

- Simply reading it
- Doing an in-depth study on my own
- Studying it with others
- Listening to a sermon
- Memorizing it
 - *Why did you pick the statement you did?*
 - *If that's what you enjoy most, how might you incorporate more of that method into your life?*
 - *How might all those methods work together?*

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

2. Declare God's praise.

- As Christians, we come together to worship God every week.
- We sing songs of praise and offer up our prayers, and this is an important part of living the Christian life.
- However, the praise and worship that takes place in church should be only a small part of the role that praise takes in your daily life.
- The Bible challenges us to praise God continually throughout the day.

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- Read 1 Peter 2:9. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- We are created to praise God every day.
- The more you praise God, the easier it is to master the art of obedience.
- There are two ways to declare his praises.
 - 1. Tell it to God.
 - 2. Tell it to Others.

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

There are two ways to declare his praises.

- **1. Tell it to God. (ACTS)**
 - *Say to God the things that you know to be true about him:*
 - *“God you are so wonderful. You are full of love and forgiveness and mercy.*
 - *You are the source of truth and light and all that is good.*
 - *God, you are faithful to me even when I am unfaithful.*
 - *You forgive me even though I don’t deserve to be forgiven.*
 - *You answer my prayers even though I sometimes don’t answer your call.*
 - *You are my only hope.”*

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **Truths of Praising God**
 1. **You are strengthening your relationship with Him.** God already knows these things to be true. When you declare God’s praises, you’re not giving him any new information, boosting his self-esteem, buttering him up, or trying to fool him in any way
 2. **The more you talk God about your feelings, the stronger your relationship with Him becomes.**
- The difference between acquaintances and people who are in love is that with an acquaintance you talk about surface-level things such as the weather, sports, and politics.
- **When you are in love with someone, you eventually want to talk to that person about your feelings.**
- Old joke about a couple who had been married a long time
- wife said, “Why don’t you ever tell me that you love me?”
- The husband said, “Twenty-five years ago when I proposed marriage, I told you that I love you. Until I take it back, it’s still in effect.”
- Many people think their relationship with God works the same way. They think, “Certainly God knows how I feel. He knows what is in my heart.”
- Tell him anyway. In fact, God commands us to tell him. When you declare his praise, you strengthen the connection between you and God.
 - Also, declaring his praise means that we...

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **1. Tell it to God. (ACTS)**
- **2. Tell it to others.**
 - Some people put up a wall of resistance. They think they’re about to be preached to. They’re afraid they’re about to be dumped with a load of guilt and then be pressured into doing something they’re afraid to do.
 - The vacuum cleaner example.....
 - How do you think you would respond in that situation?
 - On the other hand, suppose you ran into an acquaintance who said, “Guess what? I’m taking the afternoon off and going on a picnic with my children because all of my housework is done. You see, I bought a new vacuum cleaner, and it’s the best one I have ever seen. It gets the place clean from top to bottom. It cleans the carpet, the wood floors, the tile floors, the drapes, the blinds, and it even cleans the kids. This is the most wonderful vacuum cleaner I have ever had, and even with my paltry income I was able to afford it. I don’t know how I got along without it.”
 - God didn’t ask you to be a salesman. He asked you to declare his praises.
 - Tell others about how good he is, what he has done for you, how much he means to you.

- Sharing your faith is much more effective when you emphasize how good God is, rather than how bad they are. That's what it means to declare his praises.
- As you declare God's praises to him and to others you will discover that your appetite for obedience increases dramatically.

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

Read 1 Peter 2:9–10. 9. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- **Questions:**
 - Name some of the reasons we can praise God according to these verses.
 - What kinds of darkness did God call you out of?
 - What kinds of things make you most want to praise God:

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **1. Read the Bible**
- **2. Declare God's Praise**
- **3. Identify with God's people.**
 - Look again at 1 Peter 2: 9–10.
 - As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are part of the most important group of people on planet earth.
 - Think of :
 - all the hospitals that exist right now in the name of Christ.
 - all the colleges, schools, and daycare centers that operate in the name of Christ.
 - all the homeless shelters, orphanages, nursing homes, and soup kitchens that operate in the name of Christ.
 - all the churches that exist throughout the world today.
 - If all of these were to disappear overnight, life on earth would.....
 - Even though the world doesn't recognize it, God's people play a crucial role in society, and you are a part of that.
 - When you align yourself with followers of Christ, you align yourself with people who are precious to God and essential to the well being of the global community.
 - We belong to a people who are precious to God—people with a vital mission. When you focus your attention on the fact that you are part of God's people, a people with a purpose, you will find that your appetite for obedience grows.

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

Questions:

- **Name some of the organizations in our community that you know are here because of Christians.**
- **What does it mean that we are a chosen people (v. 9)? That we are a royal priesthood? A holy nation?**
- **Note: We are chosen to be God's children in Christ. We are all made priests because we've been given the job of reconciling others to Christ. We are a holy nation, because the body of Christ supersedes all earthly nations.**
- **How can we declare God's praises as a group? List as many ways as you can think of.**

- *How can we let the world around us know that God has shown us mercy (v. 10)?*

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **1. Read the Bible**
- **2. Declare God's Praise**
- **3. Identify with God's people.**
- ▶ **4. Avoid sinful situations.**
 - Jack Hyles softball story.
 - There's an old joke about a guy who goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, it hurts when I move my arm back and forth like this. What should I do?"

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- Read 1 Peter 2:11–12. 11. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.
- Snacking before mealtime _____ your appetite.
- What spoils your appetite for obedience?
- The best thing you can do is avoid them at all costs.
 - Types of music
 - Certain TV programs (and ads)
 - Being around certain people tends
 - Others?

PART 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **Questions:**
 - Why should we look at ourselves as aliens and strangers in the world (v. 11)?
 - How can that help us in our obedience to Christ?
 - What sinful desires war against your soul?
 - How might your good deeds cause someone else to glorify God (v. 12)?

PART 3: Apply Your Findings

- **If we are going to get good at being good**
 - we need to find our nurture in pure spiritual milk
 - we need to excel in the basics
- **We will never outgrow our need for the fundamentals of the Christian life**
 - Reading the Bible
 - Declaring God's praise
 - Identifying with God's people
 - Avoiding sinful situations
- **To the extent that we master these four simple principles, our appetite for obedience will grow, and we will be able to walk the talk according to the will of God.**
- **Conclusion**