

Simply teaching the Word simply



1 Peter

THE FIRST EPISTLE GENERAL

OF

P E T E R .

Chapter 4

Vs 1-16

A verse by verse study...

CHAPTER I.
 1 *Strength God for his manifold spiritual graces, 1-9, showing the manner in which he has been glorified of all men, and exhorted them to be diligent in conversation, as they are shown to be by the word of God, 13-25.*

PETER, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood

A.M. 664. A.D. 63.

1 Heb. 10:10; 12:24; 13:12; 14:22; 15:19; 16:20; 17:16; 18:13; 19:11; 20:13; 21:17; 22:14; 23:18; 24:22; 25:18; 26:11; 27:17; 28:13; 29:11; 30:15; 31:13; 32:18; 33:14; 34:22; 35:18; 36:11; 37:17; 38:13; 39:11; 40:15; 41:13; 42:18; 43:14; 44:22; 45:18; 46:11; 47:17; 48:13; 49:11; 50:15; 51:13; 52:18; 53:14; 54:22; 55:18; 56:11; 57:17; 58:13; 59:11; 60:15; 61:13; 62:18; 63:14; 64:22; 65:18; 66:11; 67:17; 68:13; 69:11; 70:15; 71:13; 72:18; 73:14; 74:22; 75:18; 76:11; 77:17; 78:13; 79:11; 80:15; 81:13; 82:18; 83:14; 84:22; 85:18; 86:11; 87:17; 88:13; 89:11; 90:15; 91:13; 92:18; 93:14; 94:22; 95:18; 96:11; 97:17; 98:13; 99:11; 100:15.

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season (if need be) ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations;

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise, and honour, and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom ye have not seen, in whom, though now ye see him not,

Exhortation to holiness.

12 Unto whom that not unto themselves, they did minister that are now reported unto that have preached to you with the Holy Ghost from heaven; which thing desire to look into.

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and watchful, as they that would love the end, to the grace of God be brought unto you without spot, as the children of God.

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves after former lusts in your conversation, but as he who calls you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conversation.

16 Because it is the will of God, that ye should have peace, with which ye are saved, and ye are to be quiet and still in the Lord, and to be subject unto the Lord, as unto the Lord.

17 And if ye call upon the Father, who without respect of persons, heareth us, ye shall receive mercy and grace to multiply our peace and good things.

18 Forasmuch as ye were not redeemed with silver or gold, which perisheth, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, who cleanseth from all unrighteousness, ye shall have peace with God, and inward peace, if ye have the conscience void of offence.

20 Who verily were found before the foundation of the world, but were manifest in these last times for your sake, that ye should bring forth praise and honour to God the Father, who hath called you to his glory and grace.

21 Who have obeyed the truth, that ye might bring forth the fruit of righteousness which ye have seen in him, though now ye see him not, yet ye love him, whom ye have not seen, and ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

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Introduction

“Are we human flesh undergoing a spiritual experience? Or are we spiritual beings undergoing a human experience?”

- Chuck Missler

Introduction

- Peter has been highlighting that we should imitate Christ
- Christ submitted to the will of his Father for the sake of God's divine plan
 - We are to likewise submit:
 - To Government & Authority (employers etc.)
 - Wives to husbands
 - To each other.... For the sake of God's divine plan
- Christ also suffered reproach
 - We should likewise be ready and willing to suffer for living godly lives

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves** likewise with the **same mind:** for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

1 Peter 4:1

- The weapons of our warfare are not carnal!
– 2 Corinthians 4:10
- “same mind”: “The mind of Christ”
- *““Mind” is not the brain; it is an entire process from thinking through resolution in action” - CM*
- The battlefield of our warfare is the mind
– This is where the battle is fought, won or lost.
- Christ made up His mind to endure the cross knowing what it would accomplish

Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us** in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath **suffered in the flesh** hath ceased from sin;

1 Peter 4:1

- *“Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin”* – Hebrews 12:4
- Peter is going on to say that we haven't got time to be playing around with sin...
- There is a job to do and time is running out!

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath **ceased** from sin;

1 Peter 4:1

- *Gr. pauo* past perfect tense, passive verb (middle voice in Greek): **has been released from**.
- God is the implied agent.
- The ruling power of sin has been broken. While unable to live a perfect life, the believer is free from the dominance of sin.

Cf. Rom 6

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:20-23

That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

1 Peter 4:2

- *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”* Rom. 8:5,6
- You have a choice how to live the rest of your days before we are Raptured
- You can live for the flesh and forfeit blessing and reward or live (and suffer) for His glory and receive blessing and eternal reward.

That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time
in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of
God.

1 Peter 4:2

- With Christ as our example of patience in suffering, how can we—who owe everything to Him—do any less than arm ourselves with the same “mind” and so demonstrate that we are His by faith?
- Often God uses suffering to keep us from going into that which would dishonor Him.

For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

1 Peter 4:3

- Definite break with past required.
 - Gal 5:19-21 = works of the flesh.
 - Gal 5:22-23 = the fruits of the Spirit.

For the **time past of *our* life may suffice** us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

1 Peter 4:3

- “Time...suffice”: we have already wasted enough of our most *inelastic* resource.
- How do we want our time here to be remembered in the light of eternity?

Wherein they think it strange that ye run not
with *them* to the same excess of riot,
speaking evil of *you*.

1 Peter 4:4

- Being a Biblical Christian is more than just “politically incorrect.”
- The world *hates* believers.
- “Speaking evil”: heaping abuse upon; blaspheme.

Who shall **give account** to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

1 Peter 4:5

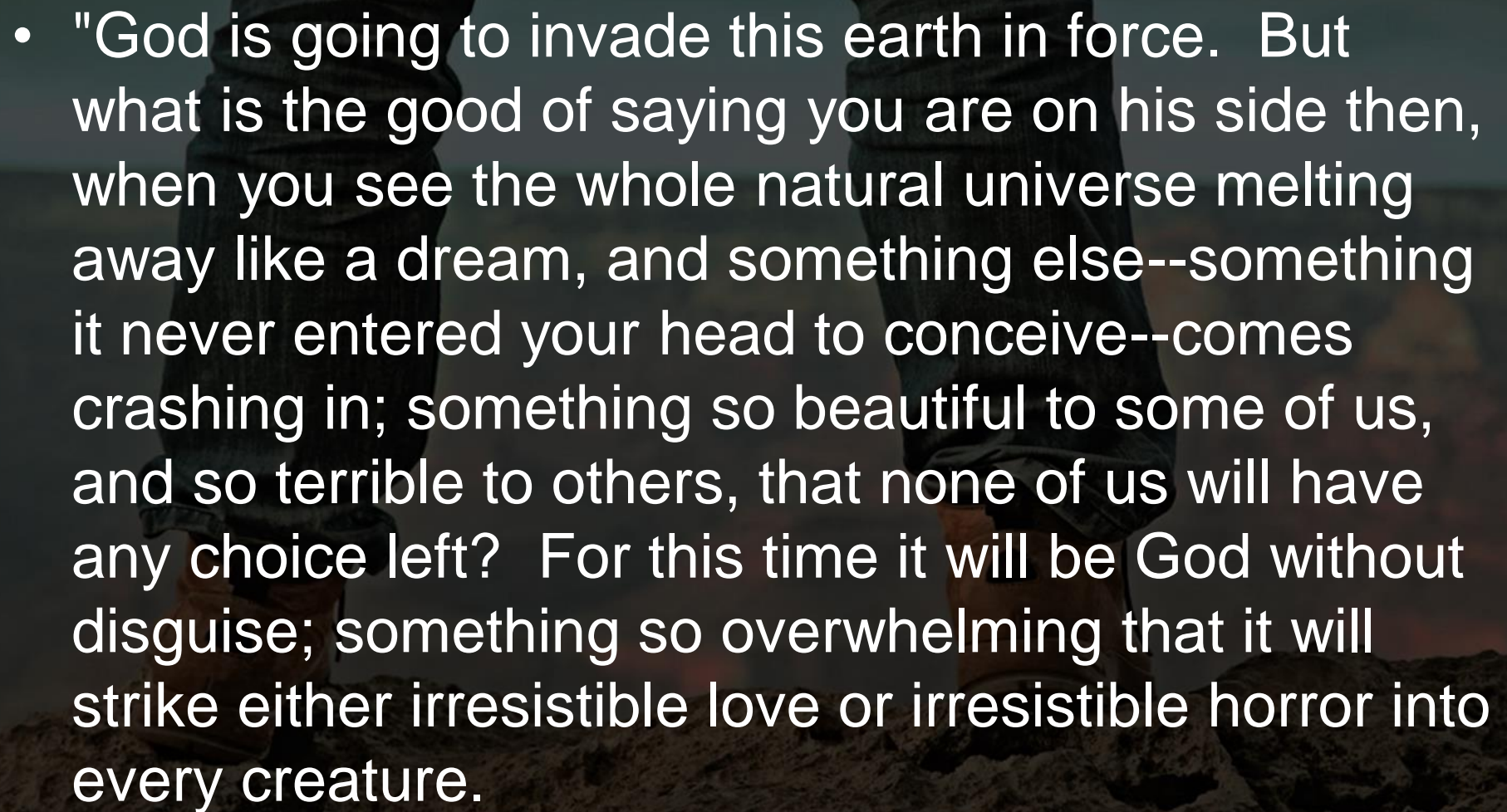
- We all have an appointment to give account.
Mt 12:36; Lk 16:2; Acts 19:40; Heb 13:17
- Are you prepared for your “final exam”?

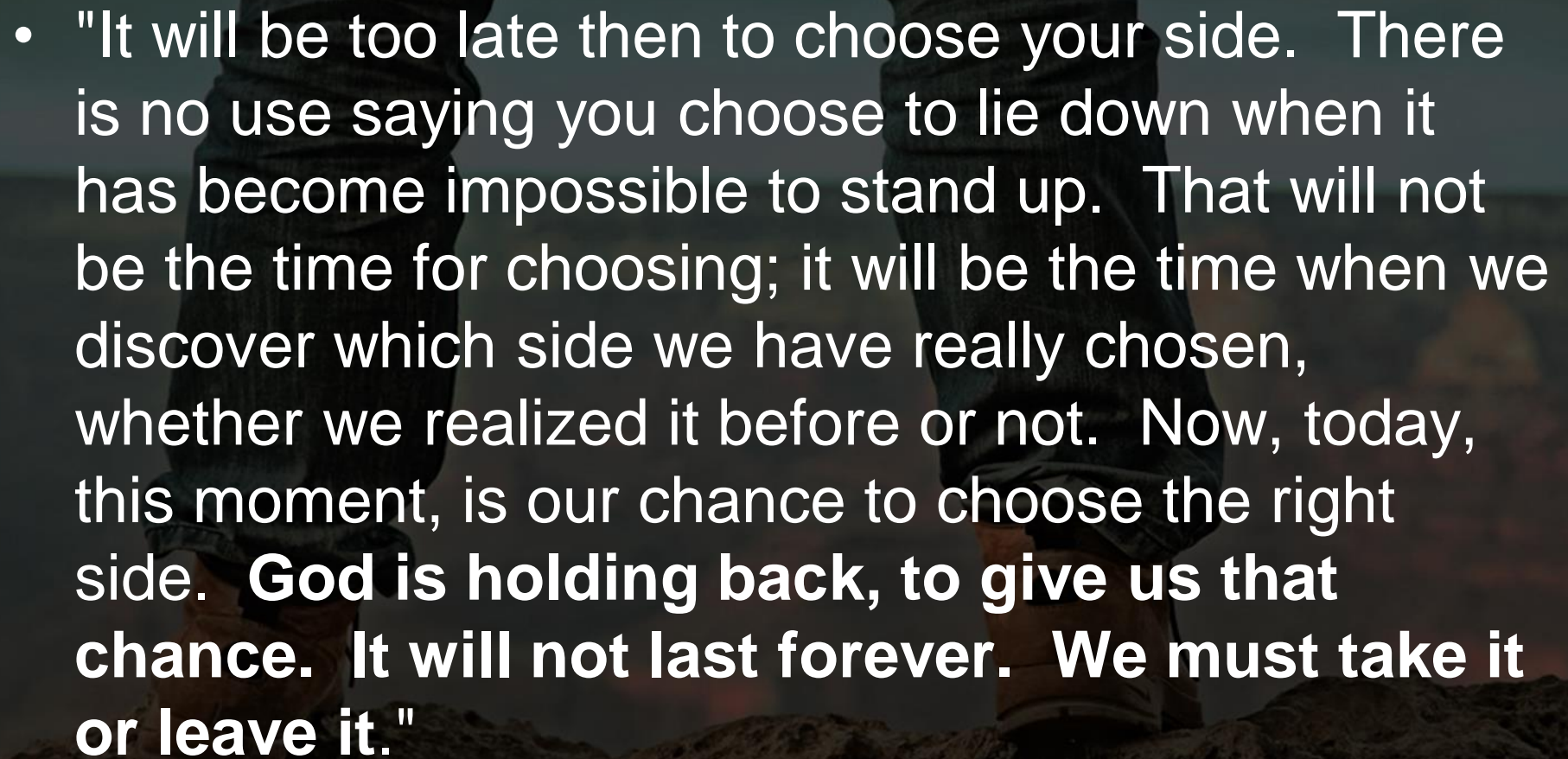
2 Cor 5:10

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

1 Peter 4:6

- *“Them that are dead”?*
 - The righteous souls in Hades (Paradise)
 - Adam, Noah, Abraham, David et al, all had to accept Jesus as the Messiah, believing on Him to be saved
- Every soul will be judged depending on their relationship to Jesus Christ.

- 
- A person's legs in jeans and boots standing on a rocky, uneven terrain. The background is a blurred, natural setting with a soft, hazy light.
- "God is going to invade this earth in force. But what is the good of saying you are on his side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream, and something else--something it never entered your head to conceive--comes crashing in; something so beautiful to some of us, and so terrible to others, that none of us will have any choice left? For this time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature.

- 
- "It will be too late then to choose your side. There is no use saying you choose to lie down when it has become impossible to stand up. That will not be the time for choosing; it will be the time when we discover which side we have really chosen, whether we realized it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. **God is holding back, to give us that chance. It will not last forever. We must take it or leave it.**"

– C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 4:7

- This verse is the key verse of Ch 4
 - Christ suffered but obeyed His Father's will because of what would be accomplished by His obedience
 - Now it's our turn!
- We have been living in the light of this truth for 2000 years!
 - We are to keep the end in view, and not to live for the passing moment, but as one who anticipates the end of all things—which is at hand.
- We are exhorted to think soberly! - Rom 12:3

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore **sober**, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 4:7

- Gr. *sophroneo* to be of sound mind; should be translated “sober-minded.”
Peter uses this expression a great deal. He actually means, “Be ye therefore *intelligent*.”

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith

Romans 12:3

- Think: Gr. *'phroneo'* (fron-eh'-o);
 - 'to exercise the mind'
- Soberly: Gr. *'eis'* (ice);
 - With intent

And above all things have fervent Love among yourselves: for Love shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

- This is amplified in **1 Corinthians 13;**
q.v. **Pro 10:12**
- While we are not to be indifferent to sin, we are to help those who are overtaken with a fault; **Gal 6:1; James 5:19, 20**
We are to cling to one another in love rather than committed to exposure and censure of others.

Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:9,10

- *“Use hospitality”*
 - It is a tool – a means to an end!
- Use whatever gift(s) God has given you to help the brethren
- You have been entrusted with gifts by His Grace!
 - Don’t ‘bury them out of fear or insecurity!’

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us

Luke 19:11-27

And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Luke 19:11-27

And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant.

Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Luke 19:11-27

Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

Luke 19:11-27

If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the **ability which God giveth:** that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.

1 Peter 4:11

“Failure to exercise your spiritual gift defrauds us all in the Body.” - CM

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **1 Peter 4:12**

- Peter knew firsthand of the 'fiery trials' had been thrown into since stepping out in faith
- Barely a 'Christian' for 40+ days and he finds himself preaching to a crowd of thousands!
- Then his third sermon was to a hostile group of Jewish "*rulers, and elders, and scribes, And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem*". - Acts 4:5

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1 Peter 4:12

- Peter then had to deal with a dispute in the church!
- This is followed by death threats!
- Then Peter is summoned to speak to a Roman Centurion!
- Following this James was killed by Herod and Peter was arrested, imprisoned and chained to soldiers.

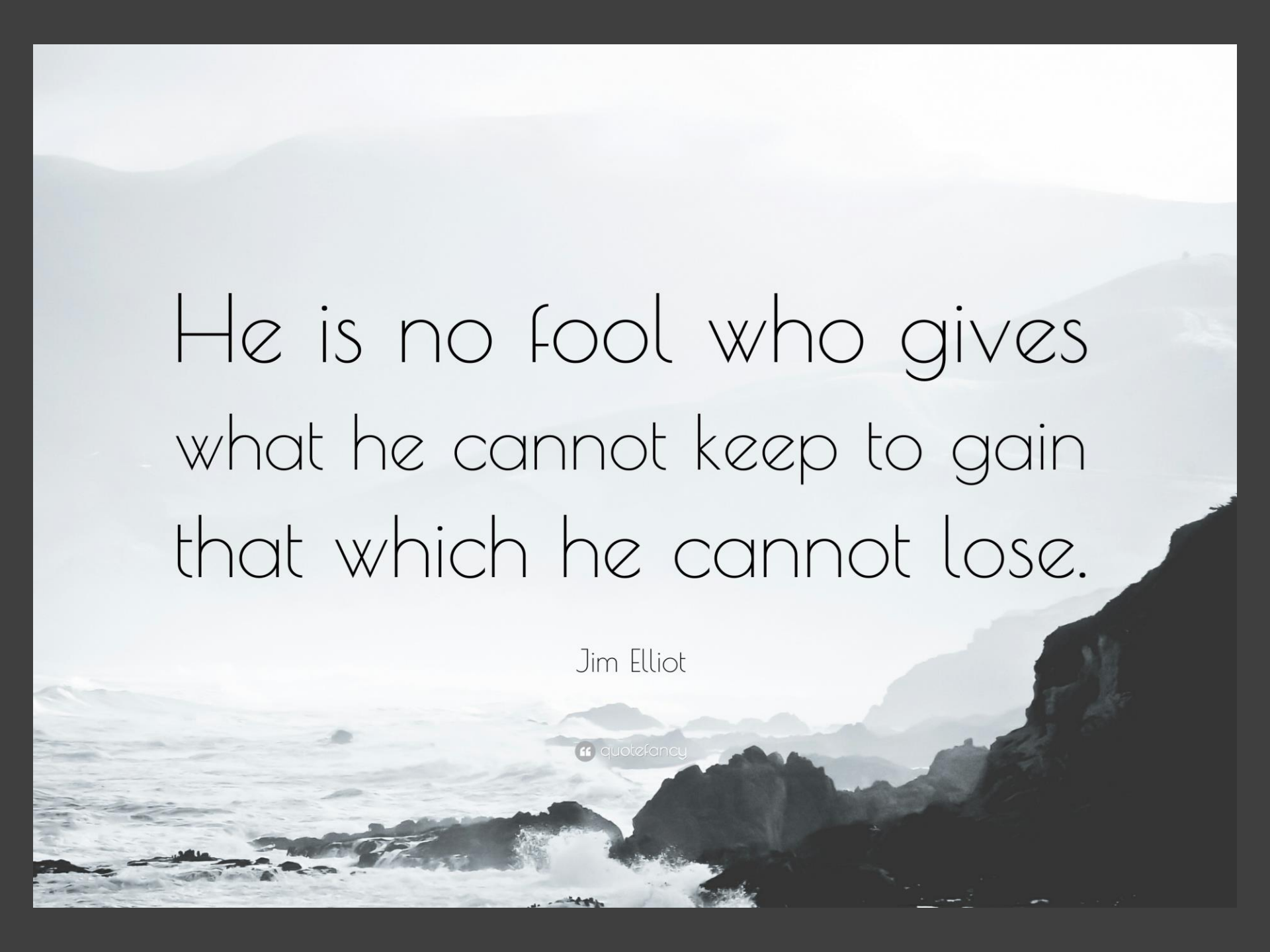
Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some **strange thing** happened unto you: 1 Peter 4:12

- Don't think you are that unique. In fact, your trial may be to train you to serve others in a similar circumstance...
- Don't make excuses why God cannot use you!
- ...or decline from service for fear of the consequences!
- What do you have here on earth that is more valuable than your relationship with Jesus?

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:13

- The believer suffers *in fellowship with his Lord*.
 - We are to expect this - John 15:18-21
- We cannot be partakers of His atoning sufferings: they stand alone; none but He could endure the penalty of our sins and so make propitiation that we could be forgiven.
- We suffer being willing to give up that which we cannot keep to gain that which we cannot lose



He is no fool who gives
what he cannot keep to gain
that which he cannot lose.

Jim Elliot

“ quote fancy

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye, for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

1 Peter 4:14

- None can be true to Christ and at the same time loved by the world and its systems.
- We cannot expect the approval of those who reject and misunderstand our Saviour unless we are willing to lay down our weapons in the battlefield of our minds and admit defeat to the world, the flesh and the devil.
 - The very thing Christ offers us victory over

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

1 Peter 4:15

- If you are going to suffer, don't let any of you be so stupid as to suffer for these things!
- No follower of Christ is called upon to *deserve* the ill-will of the wicked. He is to *adorn* the gospel of Christ.
- There is no room for retaliation or infractions in the Christian witness.
- Peter puts a gossip in the same category as a murderer...

Yet if *any man suffer as a Christian*, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1 Peter 4:16

- “Christian” is not found very often in the NT, but is the distinctive title of those who belong to Christ.
- First called thus at Antioch: **Acts 11:26;**
Also, 26:28
- We have nothing to be ashamed of!
- The world’s blindness is no match for our sight!
- *“Laugh now. One day we’ll rule the world!”*

Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be **ashamed**; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1 Peter 4:16

- Ashamed? “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*” Rom 1:16
- “*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*” 1 Tim 1:12

