

The most important command Peter gives is to “love each other deeply” (v. 8). And he applies that in two ways—hospitality and service. **What role does hospitality play in the way you express your faith? How do you practice it?**

Kyle noted how the Greek term for hospitality is a compound word that combines the terms for “love” and “strange” into one. Literally, it means, “love strangers.” Of course, there’s nothing wrong with being hospitable to those we know well, but biblical hospitality extends beyond that to those who are not a part of our group, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

Who is a “stranger” in your life that you could show hospitality to this week?

In addition to hospitality, Peter tells his readers to serve one another with whatever gift they have received from God.

PEEK AT THE GREEK

The term Peter uses in verse 10 for “gift” is *karisma*, which generally refers to earthly goods given by God. In this context, it likely has a more spiritualized meaning, referring to those intangible gifts, like those he mentions in the following verse. That said, the principle here is simply that whatever gift we have received—whether tangible or intangible—it is meant for the purpose of serving others and encouraging fellow believers in Christ. God does not gift us for the sake of our self-esteem, but to give ourselves away in service to others. When we do so, we display the love of Christ and faithfully steward God’s grace in sight of a watching world.

Horizontal lines for writing, consisting of 20 lines on the right side of the page.

What would you consider some of the gifts God has given to you?

Leader: *These don't necessarily have to be overly spiritual gifts, like prophecy or tongues. Rather, try to steer the direction where Peter takes it in verse 11 to suggestions like teaching or service itself. Other options could be financial means or general giftings like cooking, singing, writing, etc.*

How are you serving others with your gifts? What are some ways you could be more intentional about using your gifts to encourage the body of Christ?

Up to this point, Peter has been describing ways for us to live that prepare us for times of suffering. Humility, love, hospitality, and service should not vanish from our lives when things get difficult. Rather, they help us stay engaged with people—especially other believers—so that we can remain faithful. In verses 12–19, Peter reminds us once again not to be surprised when testing comes. Instead, we are to be joyful because our suffering partners us with the suffering of our Savior.

According to verses 14–16, when should we rejoice in suffering? (When we suffer for the sake of Christ—not when we suffer for deserving reasons, like murder, theft, or any other kind of criminal activity)

This is an important point for us to remember. Peter's statement does not apply to every kind of suffering. Some forms of persecution are deserved as punishment for breaking lawful rules. We rejoice when our suffering comes as a result of our obedience to Christ. It is not something we should seek, but it is something we should be willing to embrace when it comes trusting that God will use it to refine our faith, reveal his blessing, and confirm the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

How has God used suffering in your life as a way of deepening your faith in him? What did you learn about him in the midst of your suffering?

Based on what you've heard in this session, what can you begin doing to prepare yourself for suffering? How can you begin cultivating habits that will help you to remain faithful when things get difficult?

