

# The Letters of **Peter**



## Lesson 4-Being Alive in Christ Jesus

**Focus:** 1 Peter 4:1-19

- **Being armed with the mind of Christ Jesus! (v.1-5)**
  - (v.1,2) Christ lived among us in the flesh! He became a human being like us and He also faced the same kind of temptations that we face, yet He was without sin! Jesus was victorious. We must learn of Him and overcome even as He overcame (Revelation 3:21; **Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16**).
  - Christ “suffered in the flesh.” That is, He suffered the weaknesses of human flesh, but He overcame it! **When Satan tempted Jesus, He was victorious! See Matthew 4:1-10.** *Satan tempted Jesus on every point of human weakness—hunger or appetite, pride, compromise, foolish and presumptuous behavior, etc. And Satan did that when Jesus was at His weakest point physically and emotionally. Christ was not controlled by appetites of the flesh! Instead, He was controlled by the Holy Spirit and by the word of God! Jesus had “self-control” and mind, heart, and actions decided BY THE WORD OF GOD, not by fleshly feelings (Galatians 5:23 tells us about the Holy Spirit’s fruit of Self-control). Christ “lived by the Spirit” and therefore, He did “not fulfill the lusts of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16, 25).*
  - We must follow the will of God, His word, not the lusts of the flesh. If we give all to God, every day, trusting in Christ’s power, this will be fully possible. Are things are possible through God’s power (See Philippians 4:13).
  - (v.3-5) The world runs around in their sin and they think it is strange that God’s people do not do the same. However, let us be faithful to God! The results will be evident and also the judgment will come for those who are living in sin. The past time and record of our lives may have been totally covered in sins, but when Jesus comes into our lives, He directs us in totally a new way! And He forgives us for our sins (See John 8:10,11).
- **The Gospel is powerful for us to experience and to share (v.6-11)**
  - (v.6) This verse has created a lot of discussion among people! What does it mean to say that the gospel was preached to those who “are dead” so that they could “live according to God in the spirit”? Well, preaching to dead people doesn’t work too well. I’m not sure if you’ve ever tried it, but the dead don’t move at all as loud as you may be preaching to them! The verse could easily be making reference to those who ARE DEAD NOW, but who WERE ALIVE at the time when they were preached to! They were preached to back then so that they would have the chance to be made alive through Christ and His resurrection! They would have spiritual life and be “alive” by the Holy Spirit’s power in their souls. The other very important consideration is that they would have been spiritually dead in their sins and trespasses, but that they could come to life, to live in the spirit once they were converted and received the life giving power of God into their

lives! Paul spoke a lot about this truth! **Colossians 2:12,13** talk about this. **Ephesians 2:1-6** make a very clear reference and parallel almost identically to Peter's line of thinking here in verses 2-6. This seems to be the very obvious and clear explanation for this verse! That is, preaching to those who are and were spiritual dead in their sins and trespasses so that they would be made alive in Christ Jesus through conversion and the entrance of the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

- (v.7-11) We should minister in love and by prayers and according to the gifts that God has given us!
- **We are to overcome the trials of this world through Christ Jesus (v.12-19)**
  - If sufferings come because of our faithfulness to Christ Jesus then we are to take it patiently and with joy in the Holy Spirit (Even as Christ and His apostles taught and practiced—see Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 5:41). If we suffer for our own wrong doing then we deserve it and certainly that is not right for us to do or to have to experience. But, if we suffer wrong for being a faithful Christian then let us praise God!
  - Sinners will have their day to be judged before God! Their end will be terrible! Let us fear God and not do evil! Let us do well and live fully for God!

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Will you surrender your life fully to God and live by the saving power of the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_**