

# 1 Peter 1 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout  
the provinces of Pontus, Galatia,  
Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have  
been chosen according to the  
foreknowledge of God the Father, through  
the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be  
obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with  
his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has  
given us new birth into a living hope through  
the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the  
dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can  
never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance  
is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith  
are shielded by God's power until the  
coming of the salvation that is ready to be  
revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you  
greatly rejoice, though now for a little  
while you may have had to suffer grief in all  
kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that  
the proven genuineness of your faith—of  
greater worth than gold, which perishes  
even though refined by fire—may result in  
praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ  
is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen  
him, you love him; and even though you do  
not see him now, you believe in him and are  
filled with an inexpressible and glorious  
joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of  
your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets,  
who spoke of the grace that was to come to  
you, searched intently and with the greatest  
care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and  
circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in  
them was pointing when he predicted the  
sufferings of the Messiah and the glories  
that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them  
that they were not serving themselves but  
you, when they spoke of the things that  
have now been told you by those who have  
preached the gospel to you by the Holy

Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to  
look into these things.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, with minds that are alert and  
fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be  
brought to you when Jesus Christ is  
revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup> As  
obedient children, do not conform to the evil  
desires you had when you lived in  
ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you  
is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is  
written: "Be holy, because I am holy."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges  
each person's work impartially, live out your  
time as foreigners here in reverent  
fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with  
perishable things such as silver or gold that  
you were redeemed from the empty way of  
life handed down to you from your  
ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of  
Christ, a lamb without blemish or  
defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation  
of the world, but was revealed in these last  
times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you  
believe in God, who raised him from the  
dead and glorified him, and so your faith  
and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by  
obeying the truth so that you have sincere  
love for each other, love one another  
deeply, from the heart. <sup>[b]</sup><sup>23</sup> For you have  
been born again, not of perishable seed, but  
of imperishable, through the living and  
enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For,

"All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the  
field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord endures  
forever."<sup>[c]</sup>

And this is the word that was preached to  
you.

- a. [1 Peter 1:16](#) Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2
- b. [1 Peter 1:22](#) Some early manuscripts *from a pure heart*
- c. [1 Peter 1:25](#) Isaiah 40:6-8 (see Septuagint)

# Discussion Questions

1. How would the first hearers of this letter have responded to its opening? How should we?
2. What does it mean for us to “be holy”? What power makes this possible?
3. What is the “imperishable seed”? What form does it take as it grows?