

## **Walk the Talk - Present Testing, Future Hope** (based on a series by Steve May)

Begins September 13.

Overview: For many people, these are difficult times. The readers of Peter's first letter were confused and discouraged by the persecution they were encountering because of their faith. Unlike the early Christians, we may not be facing persecution; however, we do know discouragement. And, like the early Christians, Peter exhorts us to stand strong, repeatedly reminding us of Christ's example, the riches of our inheritance in him, and the hope of his returning again. Peter explained how Christians should respond when they suffer.

Called the "apostle of hope," Peter's primary message is to trust the Lord, live obediently no matter what our circumstances, and keep our hope fixed on God's ultimate promise of deliverance. Suffering is to be expected (no fewer than seven different Greek words for suffering in this letter suggest the intensity of the persecution!), but it is temporary and yields great blessings for those who remain steadfast. Another major theme is grace. In fact, the word "grace" is used in every chapter. Peter's aim is to testify of the sufficiency of God's grace.

In this series, we will explore the book of **1 Peter** in order to gain deeper insight into God's grace and grow in hope we have received in Jesus.

Recommended reading: Weekly read 1 Peter – using a different translation each week

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September 13 –Walk the Talk: Why Bother - 1 Peter 1:3–9

Pastor Mike

Big Idea: *How we walk reflects the value of the gift we have received in Jesus.* When what we say and what we do match, we are real and genuine people... people who can be trusted. Like clay pots who survive the potter's fire, we are marked as "the real thing" and reflect the skill and integrity of the potter.

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September 20 –Weirdoes in a Weird World - 1 Peter 1:13–16

Pastor Mike

Big Idea: *If you want to act holy, you have to learn to think holy.* The Holy Spirit seeks to transform us into what we already are by God's grace: heirs and co-heirs with Jesus of the Kingdom of God. This transformation—the process of becoming holy—begins in our minds.

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September 27 – What If I Don't Feel Like Being Good - 1 Peter 1:17–25

Pastor Corey

Big Idea: *Being good makes sense.* Split-second decisions—will you do the right or the wrong thing?

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October 4 – *Commit to be fit*- 1 Peter 2:1–12

Pastor Mike

Big Idea: *Mastering the Christian life is like mastering other things: it's a matter of doing the basics again and again.* No matter how long you have been a believer, the only way to grow in your salvation—to become spiritual and master the art of obedience—is through pure spiritual milk.

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October 11 – Refuse to Get Revenge - 1 Peter 2:19–25

Pastor Corey

Big Idea: *If you refuse to become consumed with the idea of revenge, and instead become consumed with forgiveness, you will experience the grace of God in a powerful way.* Making the transition from wanting to get even to being willing to forgive.

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October 18 – Learn to Live in Peace - 1 Peter 3:8–17

Pastor Mike

Big Idea: *By working hard at being at peace with one another, we honor God.* God makes it clear that he wants us to get along—and that doing so is foundational to Christian living.

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October 25 – Get Ready for a Rough Ride - 1 Peter 4:1–19

Pastor Corey

Big Idea: *Things get rough from time and time, but you can prepare yourself for the difficult days ahead.* Preparing you in advance for the tough times that surely are ahead.

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November 1 – You're in Good Hands - 1 Peter 5:5–11

Pastor Corey

Big Idea: *You are in God's hands.* Whatever difficulties this life holds, faithfulness and obedience to God will be rewarded beyond what the hardship costs us.

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