

A Godly Kind of Fear
1 Peter 1:17-21

Review of verses 1-16

1. The Charge: “Live out the time of your life in this world *in fear*.”

Who Peter addressed in this charge.

Primarily believers.

Praying to God as “Father” Matthew 6:9

Prayers to God without a right understanding and honest admission of sin, do not get delivered by the Holy Spirit to God.

2. The “Fear” Peter calls for?

A. Could be pointing to the need for the “fear of the Lord”—the idea of reverent awe toward God. . .

. . . particularly regarding the impartial judgment of God on our service.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

B. Also pointing to fear of ourselves.

Note verses 13 and 18.

We need to have a fearful regard for the potential there is for us to fall short of our calling to obedience and holiness.

Living “in fear” means:

When no one is looking and an evil desire is calling to be satisfied, let this fear guide you to take **the long view**. and imagine all the damage surrender to the evil desire could bring.

Shudder at that view and beseech God for a righteous alternative.

When angry words are about to burst on those around you, let this fear be the guard at your mouth.

Recoil at the thought of the scars those cutting words could inflict on people you need in your life.

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