

Alert to Pray!

1 Peter 4:7
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- What would you do differently if you knew you had only a limited amount of time to live?
- Reality Check: All of us have a limited time to live!
- Peter's awareness of his impending death—John 21:18-19
- Peter's belief in Christ's imminent return—John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Matt 24:42-44

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A. Time Frame: "The end of all things is at hand"

1. Refers to the imminent return of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Early church believed they were living in the "last days".
1 John 2:18; 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - b. Next prophetic event: rapture of the church. 1 Thess. 4:15-17
Revelation 22:20
2. We are still waiting for the return of Jesus Christ

B. Practical Application of Prophecy: "Therefore"

1. **General Statements:** Prophecy's main purpose is to motivate us for godly living
2. **Biblical Examples:** 1 John 3:1-3; Romans 13:11-13; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 2 Peter 3:10-12a; James 5:7-8
3. **Five practical applications** from 1 Peter 4 (first two)
 - a. **Keep our heads screwed on straight, and not be carried away by self-indulgence or excitement. 1 Peter 4:7**
 - 1) "serious"—"to be in one's right mind" Mark 5:15
 - 2) Characteristics of one who is "serious"—Romans 12:3; Col. 3:2, 16; 2 Cor. 10:5; 1 Pet. 1:13
 - 3) Not sidetracked by controversies and conspiracy theories.
 - b. **Must be mentally alert for effective prayer. 1 Peter 4:7**
 - 1) Peter's failure in Gethsemane—Matt. 26:40-41
 - 2) "Watch and pray" living in the last days—Luke 21:34-36
 - 3) Prayer as our offensive weapon in spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:18-20; 1 Peter 5:7-8
 - 4) Satan's schemes and prayer
 - a) Keeps us from praying by sowing doubt and encouraging complacency. 1 John 5:14-15
 - b) Distracts us, and thus discourage us.
 - 5) Three practical suggestions
 - a) Know best time for alertness in prayer.
 - b) Try different postures in prayer
 - c) Keep a prayer list