



August 23, 2009

**"Surviving Life: Feed the Fear (5)"**

I Peter 1:17-25

group member page

**I Peter 1:17-25** (English Standard Version)

<sup>17</sup>And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup>who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup>for

"All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
<sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord remains forever."

**Getting to know me**

1. What is a "fear" that you have?
2. Did you find yourself saying yes to any of the "fear" questions that Pastor Dean posed in the message?

**In to the Bible**

1. What motivates you to be a Christ follower? How do the following verses affect your motivation? Is there another verse that keeps the goal in your vision?  
Col. 1:28-29

Matt. 25 (There are three parables here)

I Cor. 15:50-58

Philippians 1:20-21

2. Define in your own words the key words in this portion of the passage.

*“<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”*

3. Exodus 12:1-13 and Malachi 1:8, 14. Why was the sacrificial lamb of the Passover to be one without a defect?
4. Why does Christ need to be the “unblemished” offering for us? See Hebrews 7:26-28; 9:11-14; Rom. 5:18-19;
5. What are some present-day “futile ways” (ESV), or “empty way of life” (NIV)? Why does Peter describe them that way?

6. Verse 22 presents us with a statement that we have been changed so that we love our brothers, but then commands us to love each other. Why this seeming repetition?

Here's some background on this verse. The first occurrence of love is the Greek word, *phileo*, which can be used as "brotherly love" or a "warm-hearted" sense of love. That Peter says this is "without hypocrisy" means that we cannot have this close sense of kinship and yet be insincere. When our souls are purified by the new birth, we become brothers to all who have been born again.

But because of this relationship we must, "love one another earnestly." "Love" in this phrase is the Greek word *agape*. This carries the sense of love based on the value of the one loved rather than the emotion of love. It can also have in the New Testament the idea of self-giving love. God loved us not because of what we have done (Rom. 5:8) but because of the value he places on us. We are made in the image of God.

Our brotherly connection to one another is to lead us earnest demonstration of self-giving love. Sometimes you hear people say, "I don't really like him but I 'love him in the Lord.'" How does verse 22 reflect on that statement?

7. Do a quick study of "born again" in the NT to see the various ways that it is defined. What does this imply about the need for the new birth? (Note--chart taken from ESV Study Bible).

### **Regeneration in the New Testament**

- [John 1:13](#) "born . . . of God"  
[John 3:3](#) "born again"  
[John 3:5](#) "born of water and the Spirit"  
[John 3:6](#) "born of the Spirit"  
[John 3:7](#) "born again"  
[John 3:8](#) "born of the Spirit"  
[Eph. 2:4-5](#) "God . . . even when we were dead . . . made us alive together with Christ"  
[Col. 2:13](#) "you, who were dead . . . God made alive together with him"  
[Titus 3:5](#) "he saved us . . . by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit"  
[James 1:18](#) "he brought us forth by the word of truth"  
[1 Pet. 1:3](#) "he has caused us to be born again"  
[1 Pet. 1:23](#) "you have been born again"  
[1 John 2:29](#) "everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him"  
[1 John 3:9](#) "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning"  
[1 John 4:7](#) "whoever loves has been born of God"

[1 John 5:1](#) “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God”

[1 John 5:4](#) “everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world”

[1 John 5:18](#) “everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning”

8. The word of God is “imperishable.” It cannot be done away with. It does not lose power. Use your concordance to list some other characteristics of the Word. How do these qualities help you in day-to-day life?

### **Application Questions**

1. What would you like as an epitaph on your grave? What do you need to change to make that true?
2. What do you think God’s judgment of your life would be if today were the end? [Caution—this could be very self-revealing! Proceed only as far as you are committed to those in your group.]
3. How can you help those in your group grow in “earnest love” for each other? What are some ways that you have seen “earnest love” demonstrated between believers?
4. Our love for one another is also based on the fact that we have been born again through the channel of the Word of God. What are you currently doing or do you see that you need to do in order to let that Word flourish in your life?
5. What questions would you ask Pastor Dean about his message? Was there something that he said that you have not been able to address in your group?
6. If you were to give a title to this section of Scripture what would it be?