**Abundant Life Church**

**The Journey, A Series on 1 Peter**

**Title: Sermon #2 – Don’t Go Back**

**Text:**

*13Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 17If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*   
**1 Peter 1:13-19 (NASB)**

**Intro:**

The Journey – We start in Chapter 1 talking about being born again and conclude in Chapter 5 in the eternal glory of Christ!

Set the context – Written to a people who have been and/or are facing persecution and suffering for their faith in Christ.

**Get Ready for the Fight – Vs. 13**

*13Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Our minds should be ready for action

Our spirit should be sober

Our hope on the grace of Jesus

 Be of sober *spirit,* be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.   
**1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)**

**Lights in Dark Places - Vs. 14-16**

*14As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

My old ways of doing things was based on ignorance. I had believed the lie of the enemy that satisfaction comes from gratifying the desires of my fleshly nature.

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* **Philippians 3:14 (NASB)**

*Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2  like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3  if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*   
**1 Peter 2:1-3 (NASB)**

Every follower of Jesus should be growing in practical holiness. The longer you serve God the more your thinking and behavior should reflect God and His standards.

Your flesh, under stress will want to return to the places of death.

*3  For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4  In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; 5  but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6  For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.   
7  The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.*   
**1 Peter 4:3-7 (NASB)**

Why would the Apostle Peter address this issue with a people who were going to go through suffering?

* Living unholy is giving into the flesh, to go through suffering the flesh must be put down. We are called to live the crucified life whether we face suffering of not. Once our appetites have been trained and our mind renewed we find greater joy and happiness in holiness. (For example: When young you might think fun is partying and sleeping with lots of women. In Christ you now see the blessed life is to love one woman for life, raise children in a place of emotional security, be blessed with closeness to your grandchildren, and discover the joy of life just keeps increasing in the way of holiness.) Professing Christians who live unholy are not equipped to go through suffering well.
* *The flesh which keeps you from the paths of righteousness will keep you from the place of peace.*
* Living unholy is an attempt to have the flesh do for you what only God can do for you! (Source of identity and joy.)

**FEAR GOD Vs. 17-19**

*17If you address as Father the who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

* Living unholy compromises our testimony and brings harm and shame to the name of Christ
* Believers will give an account of themselves to God. Every word I’ve spoken, the choices I’ve made, the things I’ve looked at on the internet, my morality, my witness and testimony for Christ.
  + 2 Cor. 5 – The Judgement seat of Christ
  + 1 Cor. 11 – Let a man examine himself before partaking of the Lord’s supper
  + 2 Cor 13:5 – Examine yourself to see if you are in the faith
  + Matt 22- Wedding feast, one shows up not dressed properly, cast out
  + Matt. 25 – a group shows up expecting to be saved but aren’t
  + Matt. 25 – Ten virgins, five didn’t get ready and missed the wedding

*"And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.'"* **Job 28:28 (NASB)**

The fear of the Lord is: Beginning of knowledge (Pr. 1:7)

Beginning of wisdom (Pr. 9:10)

Instruction for wisdom (Pr. 15:33)

Treasure (Is. 33:6)

There is a kind of fear that does not contradict confidence. A confident driver also possesses a healthy fear of an accident that prevents him from doing anything foolish. A genuine fear of judgment hinders believers from giving in to libertinism. The background to such fear can be traced to Deuteronomy (e.g., Deut 4:10; 8:6) and the wisdom tradition (Prov 1:29; 3:7; 9:10; Job 28:28; Eccl 12:13), where the fear of the Lord informs all of life.

Imagine a Bride showing up for her wedding day in a beautiful white dress, but gets in a mud fight before she arrives at the altar…