

Women's Bible Study
1 Peter 1:20-21

An attitude is, "A complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways", *WordWeb*.

- ♥ **Describe your attitude. What are your thoughts? What are your actions? What do they say about you?**
- ♥ **What things affect your attitude? How does your attitude affect your behavior?**

Our conduct or behavior is a result of who we worship, who we love, who we honor, or who we admire. Largely, the way we act towards others, reflects what we think of ourselves. If we think highly of ourselves, we will think less of others. We will be focused on what others are doing wrong or not doing right or how they have offended us, rather than on how Christ would have us serve. On the other hand, when we are humble, others are lifted higher. We will automatically be an encourager and not think of ourselves as a victim, blaming others for our dissatisfaction. We will extend grace towards others just as God has extended His grace towards us.

Consider the purpose of every decision you make, and every word you speak. Look at who benefits, what your goals are, and who is honored. Think about the focus of your pursuits, the way you spend your time and resources, and what you hope to accomplish. Our behavior – the things attributed to how we act – is a picture of our character.

We have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who willingly became the sacrifice for our sin. Perfect and spotless, Jesus suffered and died to take our penalty upon His body. He not only paid the ultimate price for our sin, but also secured heaven as our inheritance.

Because of who God is, and because of what He has done, we are to seek to be holy as He is holy. This means we choose to die to self, no longer living for worldly acknowledgement and pleasures. Instead, we live in Christ, desiring to be like Him. Our purpose is to exalt His name; our lives are driven by His love for us and our reverence of Him. In the following verses, Peter continues to lay out the reason to strive towards holiness as he reminds his readers of what has been accomplished for their sake. We are called to holiness and these instructions are for our benefit also.

1Peter 1:20-21, "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 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".

1. Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world.

Romans 16:25-26 “Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith”.

Christ was always the plan for mankind's redemption, even before the world existed. *Albert Barnes' NT Commentary* says, it was “predetermined that He should be the great atoning Sacrifice for sin”. The *Brethren NT Commentary* states, “The fact that the Word existed in the glory, love and knowledge of the Father even before the creation of the material world ... this is the providence of God”.

It is incredible to think that God, in His perfect love for mankind, had already planned for His Son to be the atoning Sacrifice for our sin.

John 17:5 "And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was”.

God, in His perfect knowledge, chose to fix mankind's problem of sin before man even existed. God is eternal; He has no beginning; He always has been – and He loves us enough to go to extreme measure to have a relationship with us. Therefore, be holy in your walk because of what He has done.

Ephesians 1:3-6 “Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved”.

Proverbs 8:23 “I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was”. *KJV*

We are to strive to be holy – not based on others' actions or lack thereof – but based on Christ's atoning sacrifice for our sin and the gift of eternal life we now possess.

♥ **What does this mean for you? How can you apply this truth?**

2. Jesus was manifest for our sake.

Romans 16:25-26 “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery

which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of

the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, [leading] to obedience of faith”.

To ‘establish’ us means to turn resolutely in a certain direction, to confirm. Jesus was purposed by God to turn us toward Himself, to confirm our standing in His holy presence. Read Paul’s address to Titus:

Titus 1:1-3 “Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, [even] His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior”.

Jesus has always been. He appeared at the perfect time – for all mankind. God purposefully sent Jesus to die – for your benefit. The end of verse 20 says ‘for the sake of you’. There is a reason Christ died. Through His death we are reconciled to God. God’s interest in mankind was resolved in Jesus Christ.

1Peter 1:21 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. We believe because of God, our faith is built upon the cross of Christ, and our hope lies solely on God’s promises.

Matthew 11:27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal [Him]”.

In Christ alone we can have a relationship with God as our heavenly Father. True faith can only be exercised through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, not in man’s sacrifices or traditions, works or words, or position or wealth. Our faith and hope rests in what God has done.

- God enables a heart to believe.
He is the one who opens a heart to His truths. This should invoke a heart of gratitude that He has chosen you.
- Faith is the moral conviction that God is God, and is built upon the work of Christ. We rely upon the truth of Jesus’ death and resurrection for all mankind.
- Because of Christ we have hope, a certain expectation of our future in heaven.

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John 14:6 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.

1Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

"Who through his gospel believe in God, who raised him up from the dead, and gave him the glory of sitting at this own right hand, as Saviour and King, that your faith in him and hope of eternal life might be founded in the power and veracity of God".
Macknight on the Epistles

- ♥ **Have you placed your complete trust and faith in Christ? Do your words and actions prove your answer?**
- ♥ **What does complete mean? What does it look like in your personal life and circumstance?** (*every component, the whole, without qualification*)

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Psalms 146:3-5 Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God;

- ♥ **Can you explain your hope?**
- ♥ **How does your attitude reflect your faith?**
- ♥ **Do you live like you have been redeemed? What is the evidence?**

1 Peter 1:21 uses the term believers. This refers to those who have faith in Christ. It comes from *pisteuo* meaning to entrust – especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ.

The fulfilment of our hope is in God. It is not in other individuals here on earth, how many friends we have or do not have, our children or any other relationships. It is not in a title we may claim, the importance of a role we have, or where we live. Neither is our hope in physical possessions or accomplishments. Material things offer only temporary satisfaction. Our hope is not in circumstances. Rarely do our plans end up

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as we thought they should. Certain hope rests upon what God, not man, has done. Hope is the foundation of our confidence in Christ and the reason we can have joy in all circumstances. Our eternal destiny is protected by God.

God is our hope "who is unchangeable in His counsels, and infinite in His mercies", (*Adam Clarke's Commentary*).

Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD. "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.

1Peter 1:13 Therefore, gird 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.

Like Peter to the dispersed Christians, the prophet Isaiah offered comforting words to the nation of Israel, encouraging them to place their hope in God. God's strength would see them through captivity. They were reminded to keep their focus on the hope of God's promises for their future deliverance.

"Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up [with] wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary", **Isaiah 40:31**.

The NIV translation reads, "those who hope in the Lord". It means to look, to be patient. In 1 Peter 1:21, the word 'hope' means to anticipate, usually with pleasure. It is an expectation, a confidence. This is the root of our joy even amidst trouble. This hope gives endurance. It changes how we think and act. It determines our purpose. Imagine how encouraging Peter's words must have been to those who were struggling. Peter's words also hold a great deal of encouragement for us today.

God's plan was put in place before the creation of the world. He sent Jesus to be our hope. Through the power of His grace we can exercise faith in Him.

♥ **Think again of your attitude. What does it say about you? Who are you living for? What is your purpose?**