

Acts 2:38-39

And Peter said to them,  
“Repent and be baptized every one of you  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the forgiveness of your sins,  
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

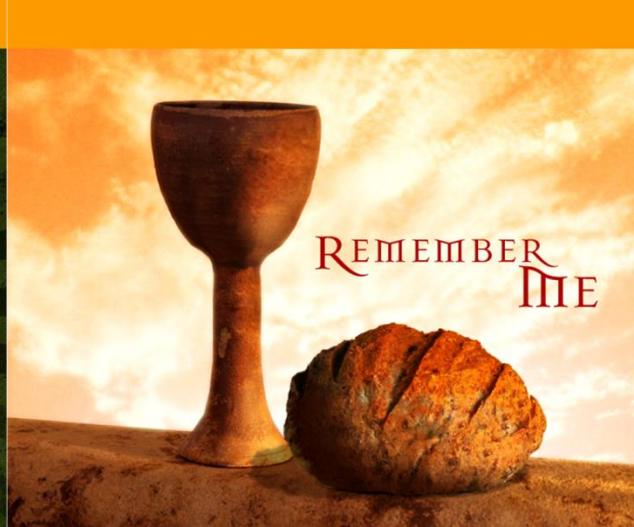
For the promise is for you and for your children  
and for all who are far off,  
everyone whom the Lord our God  
calls to himself.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named,  
that according to the riches of his glory  
he may grant you to be strengthened with power  
through his Spirit in your inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts  
through faith –

That you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
may have strength to comprehend  
with all the saints what is the breadth  
and length and height and depth,  
and to know the love of Christ  
that surpasses knowledge,  
that you may be filled  
with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.



<sup>1</sup>To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 Peter 5:1-11

<sup>5</sup>Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes proud but gives grace to the humble.”

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he might lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup>Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trials you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you might be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>16</sup>However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

<sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome of those who do not obey the message of God? <sup>18</sup>And, “if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup>So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

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Matthew 16:18

<sup>18</sup>And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

1 Peter 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect,  
strangers in the world...

2 Peter 1:1

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours...

“Be a selfless leader who inspires your followers by going anywhere and doing anything that you expect of them.”

- Harry Reeder

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Matthew 20:25-28

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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