



The Epistles of Peter  
1 Peter 4:1-6  
From Sermon 1.18.26

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As Peter's survival book for believers continues, we just cannot escape this connection between conduct and strength. In this chapter, God the Holy Spirit has focused on how our new identity should shape and motivate our conduct. We have been rescued, rehabilitated, and released (to quote a famous movie). We are no longer of the world or our own. We have been enlisted in army of the Lord of Hosts. The soon and better we embrace that, the greater its effect on our resolve and strength.

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:3-4 & Ephesians 6:10-17. Discuss the truth that every believer is also a soldier serving under Christ in this very real spiritual warfare. Various Answers: The Bible is clear that the battle is real. All I can be is a good, faithful soldier or a poor, ineffective soldier. Everyday and every situation is a battle. We must take our role seriously and consistently. God is entrusting me and others are relying on me.

2. Since we are soldiers, what kind of character should we have? Honorable, courageous, committed. Good works that are evident. Discipline should be obvious. Uncompromising. Faithful.

2a. What are our obligations and orders? To learn my role and ministry and do it. To uphold and defend my fellow soldiers. Showing up. To learn the Word of God thoroughly = my only offensive weapon. Consistency.

3. What does it mean to be a double agent or to have one foot in each camp? It's when we try to live two lives—one in the world and one in church. A mindset that our Christianity is Sunday for an hour and the rest of the week is mine. Justifying my sin to be accepted by the lost. See also James 4:3-8

4. What does Peter state will the inevitable reaction from the lost people in our lives when we live as faithful, uncompromising warriors for Christ? 1) label you as strange. 2) begin to insult you. (such as?). 3) exclude you. See Luke 6:22, 1 Corinthians 4:11-13, & John 15:18-19

4a. Inversely, if we are not viewed by the lost around us as strange and questionable, what does/can that say about our Christianity? Perhaps we need to evaluate our faith and testimony. Does anyone even know that I'm a Christian or do I look and act just like them?

5. Like any faithful soldier, it's easy to feel, at times, battle fatigue, shell-shocked, homesick, puzzled at orders and missions, and alone. Discuss what any of those might look like. Then, discuss remedies and solutions.

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5a. How do verses like *Revelation 22:12* help? Various personal answers. We know this fight and danger is very temporary. It cannot compare to the glory that awaits. No faithful act goes unnoticed in heaven. One great day, there will be a homecoming, a parade, and an awards ceremony.