

1 Peter 1:13-16

Principle 1 – Prepare Your Mind

“*Gird up the loins of your mind.*” can be rendered, “gather up; tighten up; bind up.” In verse 13 this Scripture tells the believer, “If you believe in the resurrection of Christ; if you believe He is in fact, alive, then get your mind ready to work; be alert.”

The Greek word “*mind*” refers to more than intellectual activity but a mental activity that guided and directed the conduct of life including decision making. Paul uses the same word when he writes to the Roman believers in **Romans 12:2**, “. . . *be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you might prove [determine] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*”

This Scripture is directing the believer to be ready for action. In 1 **Peter 3:15b**, the apostle Peter will again exhort the believer to, “. . . *always [be] ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you . . .*” Be ready for action!

Principle 2 – Exercise Self-control

Stay [be] sober has a double meaning. First, it refers to someone refusing intoxication; someone free from the effects of wine. Most often in the New Testament, however, the word “sober” refers to self-control:

- **1 Peter 4:7b**, “. . . *be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.*”
- **1 Peter 5:8**, “*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*” Literally, the devil is seeking someone to discredit.
- **2 Timothy 4:5** “. . . *be sober in all things . . .*”
- **1 Corinthians 15:34a** “*Become sober-minded . . . and stop sinning . . .*”

Principle 3 – Look to the Future

The three supreme virtues of the Christian life are hope, faith, and love. Hope, is not worrying and fretting, but expecting the best.

At its basic core, hope is:

- The Christian’s attitude toward the future
- The essence of our faith
- The same as faith in the present
- Trusting God for the future

The language of this text is actually commanding the believer to exercise hope. Therefore, hope is an act of the will. This text is denoting the fact that Jesus Christ, the resurrected One; the One who gives us our eternal inheritance and our great joy, is alive and has prepared an incredible future for us all at His revelation (vs.13).

Principle 4 – Resist the Allurement of Society – Don’t Revert Back to Old Behaviors

Do not get pulled back into a lifestyle that you now know is foolish and ignorant, even though at the time, it was perceived as right. The word “lusts” means “forbidden longings; sensual impulses; evil longings; unrighteous motivations.” This Scripture is saying these fleshly desires for those lusts should no longer be suitable to you.

Isaiah 5:20 says, ²⁰“*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil...* ” ²¹“*Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!*”

Paul wrote, “. . . *you are no longer children of darkness, but now you are . . . children of Light. Now live like it.*” (**Ephesians 5:8** paraphrased)

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Principle – 5 Pursue Holiness – Make No Excuses for Sin

Verse 15 is linked with verse 14 as it connects exchanging the former lusts with our new family likeness as obedient children of God. The genuine believer is never satisfied with anything less than holiness, and sin becomes a grievous act.

The word “holy” means, “separated or set apart.” This could be rendered, “marked off”; that is, “designated for God.” The holy of holies in the Old Testament was separated from everyone except the high priest who could enter once a year. Our bodies have become the sanctuary of God; the High Priest Himself indwells us, and we are now separated unto Him. *1 Corinthians 6:19*, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

1 Peter 1:15b, “... be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.” This is 100%. No exceptions, no excuses.

Am I always?

- Kind
- Thoughtful
- Courteous
- Considerate
- Patient
- Loving
- Forgiving
- Faithful to do the best work on my job
- Understanding
- True to my word
- Helpful
- Trustworthy
- Faithful

We do not tell God:

- I love You with 85% of my heart
- You can have 90% of my life
- I'll be an honest Christian 60% of the time
- I'll do the right thing and pursue holy living 5 times out of 10

We get into heaven:

- Not because we were a good friend, but because Jesus Christ is the Friend of sinners
- Not because we gave it our all, but because He gave His all for us
- Not because we have done enough good things, but because He paid the penalty for everything
- Not because we took care of people, but because He took care of us
- Because everything about our sin we repented
- Because everything about His sacrifice, we received. Those who have received Christ, Peter writes, “live like it.
- We should think biblically and not get caught napping spiritually
- We should act with self-control and not be driven by emotions
- We should remember the future is coming and not get stuck in the past or present
- We should resist the pull of society and not revert back to our old ways
- We should pursue holiness in everything and not make excuses for sin

Application:

How often do I slip back into former “lusts” [old sinful habits]? What changes do I need to make to “*be holy in all my conduct as the One who called me is holy*” [Christ Jesus]?