

Intro: I realized I was in a very different world as I was walking down the street in Jerusalem, looked up and realized that they young man in a soldiers uniform was holding a very well used automatic weapon...as was his buddy! All of a sudden it clicked...I'm in a strange land...this isn't the US! That point was driven home very clearly when one of the people on the tour asked our guide, "Why are all of the soldiers standing behind those barriers?" Only to get the reply..."They stand back there so that anyone walking by who wants to stab them can't reach them easily!"

A stranger in a strange land...that is what Peter is saying to the people to whom he is writing in his first letter.

1Peter 1:1-2

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In the first couple of sentences in his letter Peter lets the people he is writing to know "How To Live Up In A Down World!" That is the topic we have been talking about for a while now, right? How do you conduct yourself when you don't fit!?

Thesis: Living Up in a Down World: As committed followers of Jesus...we don't fit!  
Diagram: Get our "Is" and our "Should" in order! But, it is HARD to get it all in rightplace, so

### 1. Stay Focused on WHO You Are!

Peter is writing to those who are living in a world that they don't understand...and doesn't understand them!

Says, Don't lose yourself...it will be hard...the pressures... the opportunities...the very culture around you does all it can to change you, but don't give in! Stand strong; Continue to live for God, Allow HIM to define who you are, how you live

Peter Uses 3 Words To Help us REMEMBER who We Are

- Strangers Lit = Resident foreigner; alien alongside; used to describe someone living in a land not their home  
That truly is who we are, isn't it?  
When I was in Jerusalem, I was a "stranger" Country was USA...Alongside Israelis!  
Illus: Every night I turn on the news and I think...I am a stranger! This world is not my home!  
I don't fit! Political system is a nightmare, common sense is thrown out window Alien!  
We are now living in the same world early Christians did: Rom 1:21-32
- Elect Lit = Selected by hand, Chosen, Picked out BY GOD! You are not his follower by accident  
Illus: Remember being on the playground...time to choose ups sides...wanted to be on winning  
How wonderful it felt when someone said..."I choose Dennis!" Wow...amazing  
Listen: God Chose YOU!  
Eph 1:4: Chosen before the foundation of world to be holy, w/o blame!
- Scattered Lit = Our word "Dispersed" Sometimes used of Scattering Seed To be thrown around...  
Illus: Watching a neighbor one day "reseed" his yard...OK, wanted it better: Dispersed  
That's the way God sees YOU. He has "scattered" you so that you can make things better!  
Not only selected you...PLACED you for a purpose!

#### 3 Truths To Live By

1. If you feel like you don't fit...It's OK! You don't: *Morality, Language, Priorities, Use of Money...EVERYTHING DIFF*
2. God picked YOU...He sees something Amazing in you...He did it for a reason...Be open to what He wants
3. Don't be discouraged if you are the "only one" that is a Christian where you are. God put you there to "make it better!"

### 2. Remember WHO Is Walking With You And WHAT They Have Done For You!

If you pause to look at it, Peter is telling us that ALL of the Trinity is involved in our life!

I don't know about you...but that humbles me. The thought that the fullness of God would be focused on ME...Amazing

- Chosen by foreknowledge of God the Father  
Illus: You are not an accident. You are not an afterthought. You are not a mistake. You are hand picked by God!  
Listen...God looked down from Heaven one day, and in all of His wisdom, Seeing the end from the beginning  
God picked YOU! And He placed you where you are, Gifted you for what He wants to do, Empowers you
- Being sanctified by Holy Spirit: To be rendered Holy, or to be consecrated.  
Illus: Not only did God Pick you...But He has guaranteed that He is going to make you like Jesus  
Phil 1:3 "He who began a good work in you WILL carry it on to the day of completion."  
Talking w/ someone the other day about a friend going through very tough time...Fix it? NO! God at Work!
- Sprinkled by the blood of His Son! Sprinkled: What the Priest did in Holy of Holies with blood of Sacrifice  
Then it "covered over" the sin of the people. Now it cleanses!

Heb 10:15-22

#### 3 Truths To Live By!

1. God Picked YOU! (Is He calling you?)
2. The Holy Spirit is at work within you to make you what you should be...Surrender to that work!
3. When you fall and when you fail...Your sin is covered...THANK GOD! You are CLEAN before the Lord:  
Jesus did that for you!

### 3. Remember WHAT God Provides When You Call On Him For Help.

Because you are HIS, you are never alone.

Regardless of the trials, troubles, struggles, pain that may come your way

Or, when you are living in success and victory and everything falls into place...God I right there with you!

- Grace: Lit = Unmerited Favor. God giving you something you don't deserve!  
Illus: Talk with People all the time, feel guilty, feel unworthy, feel like let God down  
Reality: You ARE guilty, ARE unworthy, We HAVE let Him Down  
Yet He Chose us knowing that...Loves us, gives us his Spirit and Sprinkles us with Blood of Son!
  - ~ Grace For YOU God Has that grace for YOU! The ONLY one disappointed in you...is YOU!  
Only one beating you up...is YOU. Not God!
  - ~Grace For OTHERS Grace is available for you and available for all those in your life that need it  
Do you know some people that need to be forgiven?  
Do you know some people that need to be loved  
Do you know some people that need to feel like God cares for them?  
God's Grace extends not just to Us...but to All those who call out to him!
  
- Peace (Philippians)
  - ~For You Do you have the Peace that comes from knowing You are right where God wants you to be?  
Peace is an internal quality. We mistakenly think everything has to be "right" to have peace  
No,your HEART has to be right with Jesus...THEN it doesn't matter what's going on: Have PEACE  
*"Peace I give to you...my peace I leave with you...not as the world has peace..."*
  - ~For Others: Do you know someone that needs that peace?  
If you do...don't hold it back, tell them where that peace is to be found...  
Friday, conducted a short service for a man that had passed  
Only had 10 minutes...Veterans Cemetery  
John 14  
Psm 23  
Rev 21  
Blessing...My the Lord bless and keep you  
I watched as the word of God began to bring peace to the hearts of some of the people present  
We KNOW...But not everyone around us does...That's why Jesus said, Blessed are the Peacemakers  
Part of why God "scatters" you....is so that you can bring PEACE to all the places that need it!

CONCL: We are STRANGERS in this world...But we are GOOD strangers!

We offer light...in the midst of darkness

Paul in Phil says we are shining like stars in the night....holding out word of life to a lost generation

Look at How this amazing work of God is put together in our life...and WHY!

We are Chosen According to: Knowledge of God

Through: Sanctifying work of Spirit

By the Blood of Jesus Christ

FOR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST!

#### Obedience in Two different ways

1. Obedience to Surrendering your life to Him, accepting Him as Lord and Savior  
Have you done that? Have you been sprinkled by His blood...is your sin covered and cleansed by Jesus  
You can do that today...Right where you sit!
2. Obedience to Him day by day, decision by decision, step by step  
Are you walking in Obedience to Jesus today?  
Is there something He is calling you to let go?  
Is there something He is calling you to DO?  
Is there an area of Obedience you simply haven't been willing to submit to Him  
Need to do that now...