

Remember what Peter has said to the people he is writing to thus far:

- You are Aliens and Strangers... You Don't Fit! *"This world is not my home..."*
- That's, OK, God has something better for you on the other side... What you have/see is NOT all there is!
- Because you live in foreign land... Live for an audience of One! (Mind right, Actions Right, Heart Right!)

Today he is going to add something to that, and he is going to say... Listen, if you are going to successfully live for God in this crazy world... If you are going to be able to life UP in a DOWN world: If you are going to get your Is and your SHOULD right

There is something you need to do... It is the same advice that the psychiatrist gives the client in clip I want you to see....

RUN VIDEO

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3

Peter tells us, "If you want to live UP in a DOWN world, then there are some things you need to STOP And some things you need to START!"

1. Specific Things We As Followers Of Jesus Need to REMOVE From Our Lives, STOP It!!

Ch 2:1 Rid Yourself: Lit = *to cleanse (wash away dirt) or to take off, lay aside (like dirty clothes!)*
Peter is saying, there are some left over actions, habits, struggles, not pure... get rid of them!
They make you spiritually dirty, spiritually unclean... wash yourself spiritually!
Illus: *Ever go into a restaurant and pick up your silverware, realize, wait... egg on there!*
Lay it aside, you clean it!

Most of These are Directed OUTWARDLY, toward others (Pulling others down, really building self at their expense)

- Malice: *Active evil directed toward someone: Badness, wickedness* **Illus:** *She is just EVIL!*
- Deceit: *To catch with bait! To lure someone in with the promise of one things... but deliver something else*
- Hypocrisy: *To act out a part, to play a part in a play, To present yourself as one thing... really different!*
- Envy: *Ill will; or Jealous spite* **Illus:** *To wish someone evil or bad because they have what you don't!*
- Slander: *Evil speaking of all kinds, Speak behind (back) Defame or tear down with words*

Ch 4:3

Half are Directed INWARDLY, toward self, Half OUT (Pleasing self, sensual desires, really tearing self down)

- Debauchery: **Not controlled:** *Excess of all kinds A wanton uncontrolled, lascivious lifestyle Life out of control*
- Lust: *Strong desire for what is forbidden: Often sexual... but not always*
- Drunkenness: *Overflow or surplus of wine*
- Orgies: *Revel this is the exact word we would use to talk about Mardi Gras! **Illus: Festival Party out of control!***
- Carousing: *Drinking contests, **Illus: Bar Crawl***
- Detestable Idolatry: *Worship of false gods... esp many of greek and pagan gods that mixed all of the above... and called it worship, Including festivals, parties, drunken contests, sacred prostitution...*

When you look at these two lists, it is easy to see that Peter is simply doing in our PERSONAL life what he had been doing all along in our PUBLIC life... He is taking the IS... and the SHOULD of behavior and helping us to see that while that may have been what we WERE... it is not what we ARE! Now we are a child of God... and our Should... is very different than our WAS!

2. Specific Things We As Followers Need To ADD To Our Lives: START It!!

Nature abhors a vacuum... When you EMPTY your life of something there is a hole to be filled. So along with the STOP IT Peter includes some direction about what we should START!

And as he does that he talks about the things we should do in 3 different categories:

God This one is all about getting in Step with God...

- Ch 4:2 **Live for God's will, not yours**

John 6:38 *"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."*

Peter is speaking here to THE fundamental question of life: Who do I serve?

Do I serve myself... or Do I serve God. That is one thing we have to ADD to our life: God First!

Until we answer THAT question, we will NEVER get the right side up!

Illus: Lord's Prayer: *Our Father... Are in Heaven... Hallowed by thy name, THY Kingdom come... THY will be done*

When we wake in the morning, have our time with God, we should be praying, "God today, help me do YOUR Will!"

Self This is all about making sure that you are doing what YOU need to do to take care of Self Spiritually

- Ch 2:2 **Crave pure spiritual milk:** Lit = *Yearn for, Intensely desire, Long for with passion; Greatly desire*
What captures your heart? What do you think about when you are alone? What do you WISH you had?
Peter is telling us: It's not the boat, The car, The clothes, The New designer bag, Latest Video Game or tool
Illus: Needed a new drill, mine was broken, borrowing, work on boat: 79.00 149.00 set of two! Strong desire!

Illus: You can lead a horse to water...but you can't make him drink!" No...but you can feed him some SALT!
Once you get a taste of serving God...the goodness of what He can do in your life...begins to grow!

- Ch 4:1 **Arm yourself with attitude Jesus had:** Lit = *Equip yourself with weapons,*
Best weapon you can have Peter says, if you want to win the spiritual battle we face every day
Attitude: Lit = to have the SAME MIND
Heb 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- Ch 4:3 **Live in light of judgment to come:** Give Account: Lit = *To say something; to explain, to talk about*
We talked about this last week...All stand before judgment seat of Christ
Ro 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. 14:10: All stand before judgment seat*
Illus: I Love Lucy: "Lucy, you got some 'splainin' to do!"
- Ch 4:7 **Be Self-Controlled and Clear minded:** Be in your right mind: Lit *be sober...Think correctly and clearly*
Pay attention to what is going on around you....
Screw your head on straight! Make sure you are focused and clear about what is taking place

Others These are all about MINISTRY to others:

- Ch 4:8 **Love deeply** Lit = *Keep on stretching yourself in order to keep on loving people!*
Loving people is not easy...Sometimes they stretch you beyond what you want
But...Peter is saying...Add this to your life: Be willing to be stretched
Illus: Some people...are easier to love than others!!!
- Ch 4:9 **Offer hospitality** Lit = *Be fond of guests:* And do it...without grumbling, begrudging, complaining
Look at having guests in your life as an opportunity to love people in a practical way
- Ch 4:10 **Serve Faithfully** Use whatever gift God has giving you...to Wait on others!
(W/God's strength vs 11) This will be bigger than you are: So depend upon His strength!
- Ch 4:11 **Speak words of God** *Be careful to speak what God would have you say*
(No better reason for scripture memory than that is there?)
Do your best to speak in such a way that God speaks through you!

Peter tells us, ADD some things to your spiritual life: STOP IT...START IT!!!

CONCL:

Living up in a down world isn't easy! For those of us who claim Christ as our Lord and Savior the bar is pretty high!
Peter is talking to people that are scattered, persecuted, living every day in a world that is not their home
And as he opens his letter to them he says...

STOP IT!!!

There are some things you need to get rid of in your spiritual life!
Is that true for you this morning? When I went through that list did the HS convict you?
Did he point out something to you and say...Stop It!?
If so...come, pray...seek Him...Repent...Ask for the Grace and Strength to leave it behind

START IT!!!

Are there some things you have been overlooking in your spiritual life?
As we worked through the list...Did the HS point out something to you and say...This is missing?
Did you hear that still small voice saying...I want you to add this...
If so...you come...and ask for the Grace and Strength to walk with him!
It may not be easy ..but you will start the process of walking more in tune with him.