

A sunset scene with a large, bright sun partially obscured by a dark, silhouetted mountain range. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted trees and a body of water reflecting the sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

1 Pet. 1:22-25

“Rekindling the influence of the Word of God.”

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever.** And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

I. THE QUESTION OF SALVATION, 1:5-8

A. We Have An Expectant Hope

B. We Have An Experiential Faith, 1:5-7

C. We Have An Expressive Love, 1:8-9

II. THE QUESTION OF SCRIPTURE, 1:9-12

A. As to its Message, 1:9

B. As to its Mystery, 1:10-11

C. As to its Majesty, 1:12

III. THE QUESTION OF SANCTIFICATION

A. The Character of God, 1:13-17

B. The Cross of Christ, 1:18-21

C. The Control of the Spirit, 1:22-25



1. A New Pattern of Life, 1:22

a. A New Life Experienced, 1:22a-b

(1) Cleansing, 1:22a

(2) Commitment, 1:22b

b. A New Love Expressed, 1:22c-e

(1) The Integrity of that Love, 1:22c-d

(a) Unfeigned, 1:22c

(b) Unfouled, 1:22d

(2) The Intensity of that Love, 1:22e

How are we to “...love one another with a pure heart fervently:”? In order to love one another as God does, we must be born of God, resemble Him in our daily life, and know how to tap into His power. This passage points us to the importance of the Word of God.

Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God is quick, and powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Bible is the key to grasping, understanding, and applying Christian principles for life!

2. A New Principle of Life, 1:23-25

a. The Power of God's Word, 1:23-25a

(1) The Power of God's Word Declared, 1:23

(a) The Nature of the Wonder We Receive, 1:23a "Being born again..."

- In 1 Pet. 1:22, believers are commanded to "...love one another with a pure heart fervently:" This command is related to the catalyst in 1:23 "Being born again..."

- A believer has a radical change when “born again.”

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; **behold, all things are become new.**

- Such a radical lifestyle change, via the new birth, is directly connected to the power of the Word of God!

(b) The Nature of the Word We Believe,
1:23b-c

i. It is Incorruptible, 1:23b “...not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God...”

Luke 8:5 **A sower went out to sow his seed**: and as he sowed, **some fell by the way side**; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

6 And **some fell upon a rock**; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

7 And **some fell among thorns**; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

8 And **other fell on good ground**, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? ...

11 Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**

- In sowing the seed of the Word of God, the best program is **ALL THE TIME – EVERYWHERE!**
- Believers sow the seed, and the Holy Spirit does His work in the hearts of the receivers.

Jn. 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

2 Tim. 3:16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God,** and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Isa. 55:11 So shall **my word** be that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

- Believers should consider a very pertinent question:

Hag. 2:19 “**Is the seed yet in the barn?...**”

- Believers should get the seed out and live to rejoice in the harvest:

Psa. 126:5 **They that sow** in tears shall **reap in joy**.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, **bearing precious seed**, shall **doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him***.

ii. It is Invincible, 1:23c “...which liveth and abideth for ever.”

Psa. 12:6 **The words of the LORD *are pure words*: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.**
7 **Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**

(2) The Power of God's Word Described, 1:24-25a

(a) The Impermanent Nature of Man's World, 1:24

1 Pet. 1:24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

- Every natural thing eventually dies and disappears, the opposite of God's living and abiding Word. The seed lives and abides, and so do those to whom it gives new life. The word that had been preached to the readers was, specifically, the gospel.

Mt. 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.**

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but **my words shall not pass away.**

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but **my words shall not pass away.**

(b) The Imperishable Nature of God's Word, 1:25a "But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever...**"

- Compare the finite temporality of man versus the eternality of God's Word!

Isa. 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry?
All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: **surely the people is grass.**

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but **the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

- We need the preaching and the teaching of the Word of God above everything else.
- This is not meant to minimize the place of music, the place of methods, and the place of organization, but **there is absolutely no substitute for the Word of God today.**

b. The Proclamation of God's Word, 1:25b
“...And **this is the word** which by the
gospel is preached unto you.”

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the
world, and preach the gospel** to every creature.

- The duty of Christians to one another, then, is to love one another fervently.
- The “seed” produces children in resemblance of their Father –

1 Jn 4:7 **Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God;** and every one that loveth is **born of God, and knoweth God.** 8 **He that loveth not knoweth not God;** for God is love.

1 Jn. 5:2 By this we know that **we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

- This is true even of Christians who are suffering for their commitment to follow God faithfully.
- We can and should do so because we are genuine brethren, and because we will abide "forever."

Summary

“Rekindling the Influence of the Word of God”

- The Clarity of Love – v. 22

1 Pet. 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

- The Cause of Liberty – v. 23

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

▪ The Certainty of Life – vs. 24-25

1 Pet. 1:24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever**. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Conclusion

2 Cor. 4:3 But **if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

4 In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For **we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord;** and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath **shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**