

KEYS TO UNLOCK THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

NEW URGENCY

1 PETER 4:1-11

⁴ Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³ For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*; ⁵ but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to *the will of God*.

⁷ The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer. ⁸ Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Why is there a new sense of urgency as a follower of Jesus?

- **The mission is great! / The time is short! / The end is near!**
 - **My time is running out.**
 - **Their time is running out.**
 - **Our time is running out.**

V. 1-6 = We should have an urgency to live like Jesus.

V. 7 = We should have an urgency to pray like Jesus.

V. 8-11 = We should have an urgency to love like Jesus.

Final Word of Encouragement: Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. – 1 Corinthians 16:13 ESV

Discussion Questions:

1). When did you first come to a crossroad in your life where you recognized that following Jesus might come at a cost? Were you willing to pay the price of following Jesus?

2). Where is your urgency to live wholeheartedly for Christ right now?

←-----→

I'm apathetic

I'm vigilant and

I'm paralyzed

and feel like I have

feel like I will have

and feel like I

all the time in

just enough time.

don't have

the world.

enough time.

3). Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal 2 or 3 people that you can begin to pray for and share the good news of the gospel with.

4). What new gifts or abilities have you discovered since becoming a Christian? How could you use these new gifts to love those around you?