

**INTRO**

- What's a goal you set out to achieve and did, or, what's a current goal you have?

**READ**

1 Peter 4:1-11

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

Like anything worth pursuing in life, it will take resolve (a firm determination to pursue a course of action). In today's passage, we look at 4 specific resolves if we are going to follow Jesus no matter what.

**1. RESOLVE TO live a God-centred life in a self-centred age (v2-3)**

You have 1 life to live but 2 ways to live it: primarily for self or God. In our day, we are encouraged to pursue a life that is "good, right and true for me," but Peter says we're to be done with that kind of lifestyle. God's will is given to us for our flourishing, not our frustration, and we should passionately pursue it.

*Qu: Honestly, when you hear Peter's "live for the will of God" do you instinctively think of flourishing or frustration in your own life? Why?*

**2. RESOLVE TO understand the times and live accordingly (v7)**

Jesus' resurrection was both the starting place and compass for his first followers in their understanding of God, God's work in the world, and living out God's purposes for them. It should be the same for us today. What we believe powerfully shapes how we live. In other words:

*"We don't believe something by merely saying we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we act as if it were true." — Dallas Willard*

*Qu: How have you seen the connection between what you believe and how you act, play out in your life (for good or bad)?*

**3. RESOLVE TO follow Jesus in community with others (v8-11)**

The church and your role within it is essential in following Jesus and your own spiritual vitality. For example, Scripture is filled with "one anothering" which requires one another to fulfill. This resolve has been intensely tested in our current Covid world.

*Qu: Despite the challenges, what opportunities do you see for our church to grow healthier and stronger in this time?*

**4. RESOLVE TO pay the price to follow Jesus (v1)**

Our allegiance to Jesus will be tested through the devil, world, and our own flesh. Peter knew this all too well! While we may not experience the intense persecution other Christians face in the world today, we are called to a suffering of self-denial. According to Peter, the pain and suffering that self-denial brings is a godly suffering that is far better than yielding to sin.

*"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

*— Jesus, Mark 8:34*

*Qu: Of the 4 resolves we've outlined above, which do you feel most challenged to grow in?*

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Pray for any specific needs of the group.
- Pray for a renewed resolve in one another's lives to pursue Jesus no matter what, to build the church, and to pay the price in doing so.