

First Peter addresses Christians scattered across Asia Minor, in what is now Turkey. They faced hostility and suffering because their faith set them apart from surrounding society. The letter encourages them to stand firm in God's grace, remembering their living hope through Jesus' resurrection. Chapter 4 calls believers to leave behind former sinful patterns and live according to God's will. Because Christ will return, they should pray, love deeply, welcome others and use their gifts to serve. These instructions show how Christian community helps disciples grow and remain faithful under pressure. The chapter then prepares believers for suffering, urging them to rejoice in belonging to Christ, trust their faithful Creator and continue doing good, even when following Jesus proves costly.

What is a small act of kindness or form of service someone has done for you, that made a big difference, and why did it mean so much?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

1. Peter says that "the end of all things is near." How should knowing that Jesus will return shape our priorities as his disciples? See also Romans 13:11–12.
2. Why does Peter connect being alert and self-controlled with prayer? What helps you make space for prayer in everyday life?
3. What does loving one another deeply look like? When do you find it difficult to love other Christians?
4. What does Peter mean when he says that love "covers over a multitude of sins"? Proverbs 10:12.
5. What does it mean to offer hospitality "without grumbling"? How can welcoming others help them grow as disciples?
6. Who could you help feel more welcome or included this week? What could you do, even if you cannot invite someone into your home?
7. What does verse 10 teach us about who receives gifts from God and what those gifts are for? 1 Corinthians 12:4–7.
8. What gifts or abilities has God given you? 1 Corinthians 12:8–11 and Romans 12:6–8.
9. What does it mean to be a faithful steward of God's grace? How might this change the way we think about our gifts and opportunities to serve?
10. What sometimes holds you back from serving others? How could you take a step forward, even if you feel your contribution is small?
11. In v11, what responsibility does Peter give to those who speak? How can our words help others understand God's truth and grow in faith?
12. Peter says that our service should bring praise to God through Jesus Christ. How can serving others help us become more like Jesus?

Prayer Points

Pray for the Light Party, for Karline and the team as they prepare. Pray for people to come and for the message of God's light over darkness and good over evil to be an encouragement across the ages.

Lift up Pastor Kamal, a disciple-making leader serving across the Middle East and North Africa. Pray for protection and strength as he travels to support disciple-makers in the region.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

October 25th 2026

From the Street to the Table

Gifts and Service

1 Peter 4:7-11

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

Jesus calls His followers to “make disciples” and to teach them to obey everything He has commanded (Matthew 28:19–20). Where do you start with someone who is new to the faith? How do we engage with people in the first place? Discipleship is a lifelong process, not something we complete (Philippians 1:6). The goal is to become increasingly like Jesus, growing in love, holiness and maturity (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18), while encouraging and helping others to follow Him too. How does that happen in our church? This series maps out a simple understanding for how we make disciples as a church, not just new Christians, but throughout our lives.