

Today's Message: 1 PETER: CALLED OF THE LORD
Series: Messianic Letters
Pastor Gary L. Stump

Don't we all want to know what God has called us to do? What is God's calling on your life?

The Messianic Letter of **1 Peter** deals will help you identify God's calling on your life.

Messianic perspective of 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:1 (NLT) This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

Redeemed by the Lamb

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NLT) For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

Isaiah 53 applied to the Messiah

1 Peter 2:24–25 (NLT) He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

Isaiah 53:5–6 (NLT) But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

Written by: Peter

Written to: Messianic believers living in Turkey [map]

Date Written: 64 AD during Nero's persecution

Written from: Babylon (or Rome)—was with Silas & Mark

Theme: Called of the Lord

Peter's death predicted by Jesus

John 21:18b–19 (NLT) "But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God.

Church tradition says Peter was crucified upside down

Theological Introduction

*1 Peter 1:3–5 (NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been **born again**, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.*

The story goes that a friend once asked the great evangelist, George Whitefield (1714-1770) why he preached so often on “Ye must be born again.” Whitefield answered, “Because you *must* be born again.”

John 3:3b (NLT) *“Unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”*

Are you born again?

Called to inexpressible joy

1 Peter 1:8 (NLT) *You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.*

John 20:29b (NLT) *“Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”*

Called to Spiritual Nourishment

1 Peter 2:2–3 (NLT) *Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.*

Called as Living Stones (Peter = petros)

1 Peter 2:5 (NLT) *And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.*

Called out of darkness

1 Peter 2:9 (NLT) *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he **called you out of the darkness** into his wonderful light.*

Called to do good

1 Peter 2:21 (NLT) *For God **called you to do good**, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.*

Wives called to godly submission

1 Peter 3:1–2 (NLT) *In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over² by observing your pure and reverent lives.*

Husbands called to honor wives

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT) *In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.*

Called to bless others

1 Peter 3:8–9 (NLT) *Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.⁹ Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.*

Called to give an answer

1 Peter 3:15–16a (NLT) *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

Apologetics (ἀπολογία) = **to speak in defense of oneself against accusations presumed to be false—‘to defend oneself;’ reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something**

Called to use your gift

1 Peter 4:10–11 (NLT) God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Called to obedience

1 Peter 5:6–9a (NLT) So **humble yourselves** under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ **Give all your worries and cares to God**, for he cares about you. ⁸ **Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy**, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ **Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.**

Called to eternal glory through suffering

1 Peter 5:10 (NLT) In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

SO WHAT? Are you engaged in your calling?

Which part of your calling are you ignoring?

What is God leading you to do today?

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ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022

1. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.



2. WORKDAY AT NEW BUILDING SATURDAY AT 9AM—13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (SE corner 131st & SR 37). Text Alex Abell with questions or more info 317-416-8027.

3. ONWARD'S NEW LOCATION ANNOUNCED—We are thrilled to announce that Onward Church will be moving to our new facility at 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (131st & SR 37). Our planned move will be August 14, 2022. We will be renting our facility from *Mission Christian Academy* led by Shawn Moore.

4. NO YOUTH SUNDAY

5. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 9-11. Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana. Save the dates. More info to come.

6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,850 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org. Vaccine Mandates have been lifted for travelers to Israel.

7. SUPPORT MEG MCMAHON—If you would like to support the ministry of Meg McMahon go to this link: <https://give.cru.org/0995072>