

# Unstoppable

*Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do*

**“Living Like the End is Near”**

**I Peter 4:1-11**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 13, 2016*

**I Peter 4:1-11** helps us start to understand how we, as God’s chosen people, should start living as exiles as the end draws near.

## **I. Get Ready to Live Radically Different than the World Around You**

**I Peter 4:1** “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.”

The word ‘arm’ is the Greek word ‘hoplizo’ that means ‘to arm oneself with weapons’ or to ‘put on armor’. Peter says to arm yourself with the same mind that Jesus had when He suffered.

Peter’s not just calling them to believe something; He’s calling them to arm themselves with it. When you arm yourselves with it, you’re much more likely to be able to stand in battle.

You need to arm yourself each day because your flesh will try to get you to chase after the old lusts you used to live for and the world will think you’re strange. They will slander you, heap abuse on you, and ridicule you.

Peter does give us comfort in **v.5**:

**I Peter 4:5** “They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

Focus on pleasing God, doing His will, and leave justice or your reputation to Him!

## **II. Get Serious about Stirring Up the Basic Christian Disciplines with Other Believers**

**I Peter 4:7** “But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful...”

The word for ‘serious’ in **v.7** means ‘clear-minded.’ It means to stop living crazy and to be sane about what matters most, to have the fog lifted, and to be in touch with reality.

Even though Peter is talking about the end of all things, he’s not telling us to figure out the exact day it will happen. All you need to know is that the end is near. God will take care of the details and He wants you to focus on living for His glory.

**Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

**V. 7-11** points us back to basic Christian disciplines and not toward supernatural signs or wonders.

We're told to get serious about prayer, loving each other, and to get excited about serving and using our spiritual gifts.

### **A. How Serious Are You about Prayer?**

### **B. How Serious Are You about Really Loving Other Believers?**

We're to give 'agape' love, which is giving to others without expecting anything in return. It's characterized by a willingness to give up your own 'rights' and privileges. We're to be fervent in doing that!

In **v.8**, Peter anticipates one of the biggest reasons we pull back and stop loving each other. It's when another Christian sins against us. The kind of love we're supposed to have forgives and covers a multitude of sins.

**V.9** says we are to open our hearts to others by opening our homes to each other. Your home needs to become a place for grace.

The more alien we start to feel in this world, the more crucial our homes become, because without the camaraderie we feel in a fellow-Christian's home, it's very hard to survive the alienation we feel almost daily out in the world and in the work place.

### **C. How Excited Are You about Serving and Using Your Gifts?**

Peter speaks of two broad categories of speaking gifts and serving gifts, because when you're living like an exile in the final chapters of history, what you want more than anything else, is as much of God's grace as you can get a hold of. We are to find that in each other.

**I Peter 4:10** "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Every Christian is a distributor of God's grace! It looks different through different people. That's why he uses the word 'manifold' or 'multi-colored,' because it's never static and doesn't look or sound exactly the same through each believer.

All three things Peter tells us to get serious about stirring up happen best at close range, like in a small group with other believers!

The driving motive that keeps us going in these last days is found in **v.11**:

**I Peter 4:11** "... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

You pray, you love, and you serve all out for the glory of God, knowing this is not your home and we're in the final chapters.