[**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**](http://timealonewithgod.org/)

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday

[**1 PETER 1:3-5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”* What has the resurrection of Jesus Christ accomplished? What does new birth imply about what happens to us? Not just that we are a new Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) but we are now born into new circumstances: living hope and an everlasting inheritance. What do you think these two ideas mean?
3. a) When I become a Christian my fortunes change and I have the opportunity to do better; b) When I become a Christian my sins are forgiven and I have a chance to start all over again with God; c) When I become a Christian I am completely transformed and holy living and obedience to God just flows; d) When I become a Christian a real change happens in me that in time as I walk with the Holy Spirit will transform me as a person to be like Christ. Which statement do you think reflects what Peter is saying and which statement reflects what you think?
4. *“This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”* So the inheritance is in the future and the living hope is likely to be in the present. What (or who) do you think is shielded by God’s power? What do you think it means? What is the promise? What is Peter referring to when he says “the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”? Isn’t salvation in the present?
5. Think back and sum up what God is offering you through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Peter says, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!”* Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**1 PETER 1:3-5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Wednesday

[**1 PETER 1:6-7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“... though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”* Why? Clearly the promise of God’s protection is not about keeping problems away. But why not keep us safe, protected, shielded from all harm and danger? With all that God has put into the Gospel, why continue to open us to grief and trials?
3. *These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* Peter suggests that grief and trials are necessary experiences in which faith is proven genuine, refined and strengthened. These are faith’s proving grounds. It is in situations where we run out of resources that faith necessarily has to demonstrate itself. Only genuine faith honours Jesus. Do you accept this? How can this shape your view of your circumstances and your experiences?
4. *“In all this you greatly rejoice …”* What Peter implies is that we face grief and trials in the context of our joy for what God has given us in Christ. We have the resources of the resurrection power of Jesus, the living hope and the everlasting inheritance, that whatever we go through for a time (the valley of the shadow of death?) cannot take away. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**1 PETER 1:6-7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Friday

[**1 PETER 1:8-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”* What does Peter view to be expressions of faith?
3. *“It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”* Peter tells us that we are the blessed recipients of the Gospel that has been revealed and hinted at throughout the Old Testament times. Even angels are not so privileged. Do you, living in the post-Christ era, think that you are very privileged to be able to receive the Gospel?
4. *“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”* How does Peter think we should respond therefore?
5. Is the Gospel a joy and a privilege for you? Do you feel that you have received something that amounts to the greatest gift that God can ever bestow? How do you feel about the fact that you are a Christian? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**1 PETER 1:8-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1&version=NIV)

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Sunday

**THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS**

*… for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Firstly, a new birth. This is not just new circumstances, or a new lease of life having been justified—it is a fundamental change in your being. Here Peter does not speak of forgiveness and justification because his focus is not on what is past but what is ahead. He is going to call us to holy living and here he wants us to know the basis of that call.

When we put our faith in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, a fundamental change happens in us, making it possible for us to live holy lives. This is that living hope that the power of the Risen Christ bestows upon us. As God raises Christ from the dead, so too he enables us who are dead in our sinfulness, to live again.

And so just as he says in v22, “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart”—you receive Jesus’s sacrifice for you so that you have, and now that you have, exercise it wholeheartedly. In the same way, becoming a Christian results in a new birth, you are a new creation so you can live holy lives, now embrace holy living deeply, from the heart!

Secondly, a new destiny, that cannot be diminished by whatever happens, awaits us in heaven. We are assured that whatever grief or trials we may go through in this life, that destiny will be there. What is the inheritance? Peter does not elaborate but he leaves us in no doubt that it is glorious.

Thirdly, God’s protection in this life. The protection does not shield us from painful experiences because those are necessary to grow and strengthen our faith. Once again Peter does not elaborate but likely, as we are taught to pray “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”, God journeys with us in our own path of faith, and he will ensure that we will get to the end to receive our inheritance. The road is not easy but the destination is assured.

It is in the context of all that God gives us through the Risen Christ that Peter calls us to holy living. Otherwise it will again be rules and regulations that as Paul explains, we are powerless to satisfy.

This is our privilege to experience and enjoy because we are receiving the end result of our faith, that glorious plan of salvation that God put into action when Christ was chosen to be the agent to accomplish that plan, the salvation of our souls.

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. What conclusion can you draw from the passages of Scripture you have been considering? Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Read the short sharing above. Do they add anything to your own conclusions?
4. Review the past week. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
5. Write down a prayer in response.