

The Premise That Should Come from Your Position,
Possession and Protection in God
(1 Peter 1:13)

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The Big Picture: Given their position in God's kingdom, their possession in God's kingdom, their protection through God for the salvation to come, along with the trials they will have to face, this body of believers were to have a God-centered mindset by which they were to operate.

The Mindset the Saint Should Have

- A. One is to fix his hope completely on the grace to come through Jesus Christ when He comes back— looking forward in full assurance to all that Christ will bring in His return.
- B. In order to fix his hope completely on the grace to come he must prepare his mind for action— to have a settled mind to hope in what Christ will bring and to live according to that hope no matter what.
- C. To prepare one's mind for action involves putting away all in his mind that hinders progression in the reality of God, who he is in Christ, how he is to operate in Christ, and embracing the promises he has in Christ.
- D. To prepare one's mind for action also involves making a mental resolve to embrace the reality of God, who he is in Christ, how he is to operate in Christ and the promises he has in Christ no matter what comes his way.
- E. In essence when one is preparing his mind for action he is clearing his mind to move forward in fixing his hope on what Christ will bring and to live according to that hope no matter what.
- F. In order to fix his hope completely on the grace to come he must keep sober in spirit— to have a clear mind disciplined in thinking rightly, engaged in true hope and engaged in thinking about what it takes to live according to that true hope no matter what.
- G. To keep sober in spirit involves training one's mind to be restrained from self-indulgence in all things.
- H. To keep sober in spirit also involves training one's mind to embrace all things through the borders of God's commands so that one's mind would be clear to embrace the reality of God, who he is in Christ, how he is to operate in Christ and to embrace the promises he has in Christ no matter what.
- I. In essence, when one is keeping sober in spirit he is guarding his mind to move forward in fixing his hope on what Christ will bring and to live according to that hope no matter what.

Questions To Consider:

1. What do you automatically think about without hesitation?
2. What does it lead you to want?
3. What does it motivate you to do?
4. What does it lead you to become?
5. How does it lead you to handle people and circumstances?
6. What kingdom does it lead you to focus in on— Satan’s kingdom or God’s kingdom?

Key Perspective to Consider:

“If your hope disappoints you, it is the wrong kind of hope. You see, hope in God never disappoints, precisely because it is hope in God. This means that hope placed in any other thing will always end up disappointing. The problem is that when you elevate your little kingdom desires to “needs,” you no longer live with guarantees. But God has not promised to deliver all the things you have hoped, desired, and convinced yourself that you cannot live without. Your hope is absolutely attached to what kingdom you are serving. If your life is defined by how many of your little kingdom purposes you can realize, you will tend to be stressed, controlling, anxious, disappointed and fearful. You have defined your life by what you cannot control and by what God has not promised. Sadly, it is all very self-defeating. But if your hope no longer rests on your personal wisdom, strength, and character, if it no longer rests on the acceptance and performance of other people, and no longer rests on the belief that circumstances, institutions, and situations will not fail you, then you are beginning to move toward reliable hope. Big kingdom hope rests on one place and one place alone— God. It is the deeply held and daily acted-upon trust that God is the ultimate source of all that is wise, true, loving, and good, that what He is doing is best, and that what He has promised is reliable. There is a time of peace coming, and it will last forever! There will be a day when you are no longer tricked and tempted by an evil and deceitful enemy. There will be a day when your life will no longer be a battleground. There will be a day when you will no longer have to confess your failure or plead for help. There will be a day when you will no longer have to examine every thought and evaluate every motive. One day the little kingdom will be finally and forever crushed, never to rise again. In that day, a joyful and satisfied desire for the glory of God will rule the hearts of everyone. The great war of wars— that great conflict of kingdoms that has been played out on the heart of every person who ever lived— will someday be over. The kingdom of God will win! The King of kings will rule! Peace will come!”

Paul David Tripp, *A Quest for More: Living for Something Bigger than You*.

Greensboro: New Growth Press, 2007.

(Summary of statements from chapter 17 and chapter 5)