

The Preparation for Suffering and
Serving in the Last Days
(1 Peter 4:7-11)

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

The Priority of Prayer and the Promotion of Love, Service and Hospitality

- A. Since the return of Christ is near (which will bring the end of all things as they are), we Christians need to be clear-minded, thinking rightly, and self-controlled in order to pray. Prayer is of high priority in persecution; there should be clear, reasonable, sober communication with God.¹
- B. Since the return of Christ is near (which will bring the end of all thing as they are), we Christians need to stay intensely consistent in our love for fellow Christians which will result in us being able to put up with, confront, handle, and help clear up sin in the lives of fellow Christians in a God-honoring way.
- C. Since the return of Christ is near (which will bring the end of all things as they are), we are to demonstrate hospitality – to be “friendly to strangers,” to be friendly to Christians who in their travels for the Lord Jesus, or who, for whatever reason, may be in need, by providing food and shelter. We are to provide this hospitality without complaining about having to do it.² We are called to open our doors to fellow Christians who may be in need or to provide a place where fellow Christians can worship and fellowship. We are to provide this hospitality without complaining about having to do it.
- D. Since the return of Christ is near (which will bring the end of all things as they are), we are to be good managers of our spiritual gifts, whether it be speaking or acts of service. In other words, we are to be faithful to God by consistently using those gifts to serve fellow Christians according to God’s Word and power. Therefore, if we have gifts that fall in the areas of speaking, we are to speak as if our words were the very words of God, saying what He would want said. If we have gifts that fall in the areas of serving, we are to do our tasks by the strength God supplies, relying on His power to carry out our tasks.

¹ Roger M. Raymer, “1 Peter,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), p. 853.

² Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 1 Peter 4:9.

- E. We are to be good managers of our spiritual gifts so that God would be glorified (representing and demonstrating the greatness of His Character) in Christ through our use of them, recognizing that splendor (that which is grand, magnificent, brilliant), authority, and power belong to Jesus Christ always.
- F. The splendor, authority, and power of Jesus Christ should be the first thing we consider in all that we think, say, do or encounter.

“There seems to be somewhat of a sequence to Peter’s logic in 4:7-11. First, Christians must have a perspective on life that is informed by the understanding that they live in the final stage of God’s redemptive work. That realization must be met with a mental state that rightly apprehends this situation so that prayers can take their proper place in the Christian’s life. Thinking rightly and praying in a manner consistent with God’s redemptive work enables a love for one another that persists even when one is hurt by wrongs within the community. When one has correctly apprehended reality, is centered on prayer, and is able to break the cycle of wrongs, one can also speak words that are consistent with God’s revelation and serve others with a strength that He supplies. When the full range of activities in the Christian community is done with love, then in all things, God is glorified through Jesus Christ. The unity and well-being of the community of people who bear Christ’s name are preserved; right living in the Christian community displays God’s redemptive plan, and therefore God is glorified through Jesus Christ. Peter’s readers cannot glorify God in speech or actions that are not consistent with Christ’s gospel.”³

ACTS Prayer Time

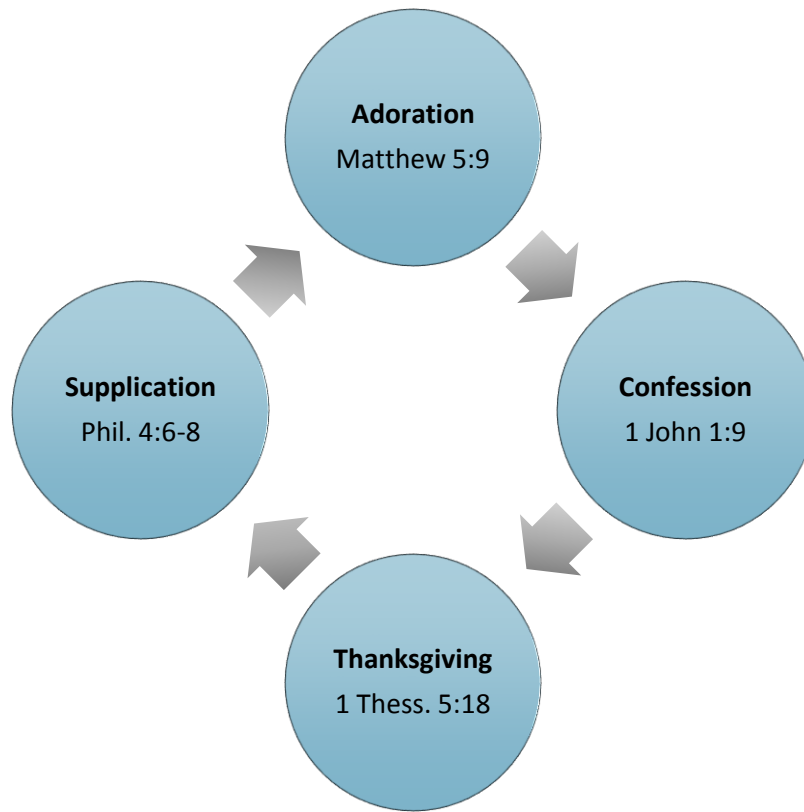
Adoration - Acknowledge and appreciate the character of God in all ways you know and have experienced Him.

Confession - Acknowledge all sins in thoughts, motives, desires, conversation, behavior, relationships and serving before God and ask forgiveness of sin in these matters.

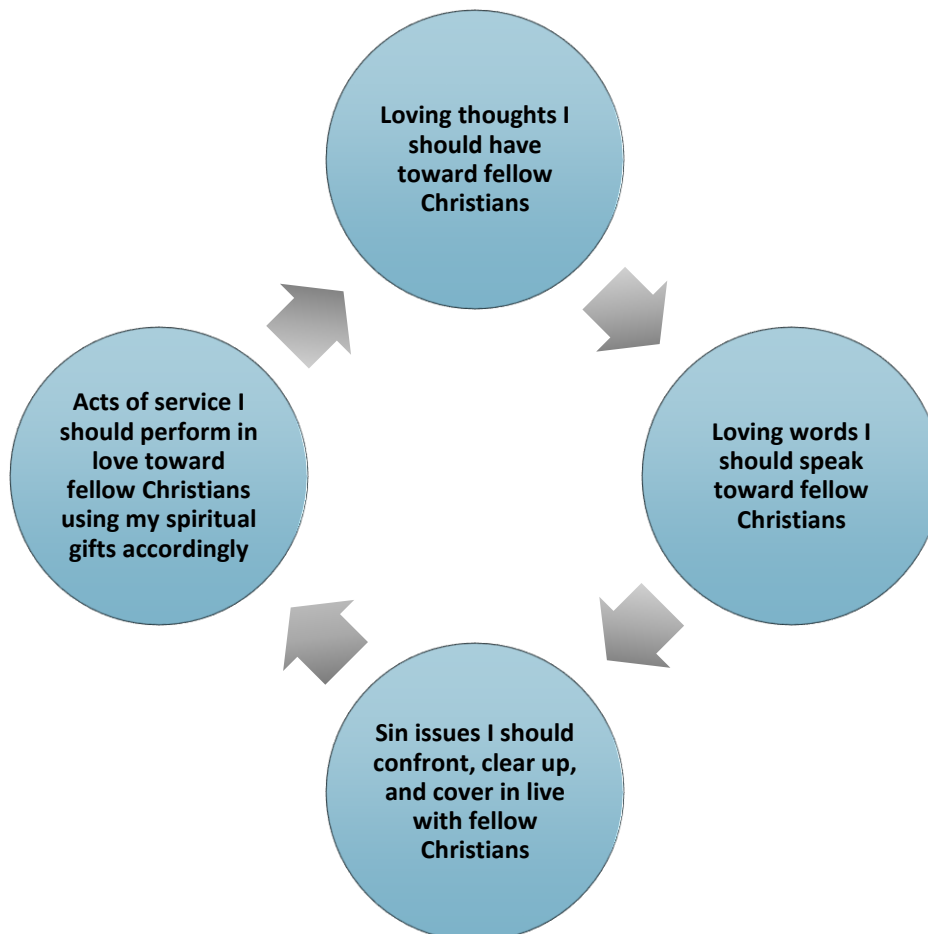
Thanksgiving - Appreciate God for what he has done in your life and the lives of people around you. Accept and affirm the goodness of God in the good and bad times of your life, knowing God is working these things out for your greatest good and His ultimate glory.

Supplication - Ask God for the things you need and want and the things others need and want that are in accordance with His will and character.

³ Karen H. Jobes, “1 Peter” (*Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*) (Kindle Locations 6655-6664). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.



The Practice of Love
John 13:34-34, Galatians 5:13-14, 1 Corinthians 13:-8, Luke 17:3-4



Showing Hospitality

**Meeting spiritual needs
of Christians you allow to
fellowship/stay in your home
(without complaining)**

**Meeting tangible needs
of Christians you allow to
fellowship/stay in your home
(without complaining)**

**Allowing Christians to stay in your home
for an appropriate period of time and
providing food accordingly
(without complaining)**

**Allowing Christians to fellowship and worship in your home
(without complaining)**