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A Study in 1 Peter
Loving Life and Having Good Days

Four Corners Church
August 2, 2026

Gaining a life you love and having good days does not come by easy circumstances but by Christ-shaped living.

Remember, Peter is writing to a persecuted people – and he speaks of loving life and having good days.

1 Peter 3:8-9 ⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

- Before Peter talks about suffering, he talks about relationships – no “Lone Ranger” Christians.
- Love God’s People (vv. 8-9).
 - Unity over uniformity
 - Sympathy over criticism
 - Humility over pride
 - Blessing over retaliation

1 Peter 3:10-12 ¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

- Peter quotes Psalm 34 and pushes you to make 3 deliberate choices.
- Love God’s Ways (vv. 10-14)
 - Guard your tongue
 - Turn from evil and do good
 - Pursue peace because God sees, hears, and reigns
- The obvious question is, “What happens when I do right and it still goes bad?” Peter answers that next.

1 Peter 3:13-17 ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- Peter is realistic – doing good doesn't always guarantee good days because for the Christian suffering is "normal."
- Love Christ More Than Comfort (vv. 13-17)
 - Expect suffering
 - Display hope
 - Defend your faith with gentleness and respect
- Truth without gentleness becomes harsh. Gentleness without truth becomes compromise. The Gospel requires both truth and gentleness.

1 Peter 3:18-22 ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

- The point is: The cross looked like defeat but was actually victory being worked to completion.
- Love the Victory Christ Has Already Won (vv. 18-22)
 - Christ suffered for us
 - Christ triumphed over every power
 - Christ reigns, therefore Christians can truly "love life and see good days" even in a broken world.
- Your greatest day was not the day you got the promotion, bought the house, retired, had a child – it was the day Jesus brought you to God.