

Foundations, Pt. 2

1 Peter 1:10-17

When we read the scripture and feel envious of the way God spoke to the prophets of old, we have it twisted. It is they who would be envious of us, because of the regular, ongoing, _____ of God's Spirit in Christ followers today.

Discussion 1. The prophets and angels are envious of our access to the Holy Spirit. In your opinion, what are the dangers of not recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Why might it matter if we mistake the Spirit's work for works of people and people's works for works of the Spirit?

Fixing our hope on the things of God rather than the things of this world requires a particular _____ and self-awareness of the biases, prejudices and cultural narratives that so easily distract us from a Godly perspective.

Discussion 2. What disciplines or routines do you rely upon to help you stay focused on Godly, spiritual things rather than on worldly things? How do you recognize if you are distracted by cultural bias and narratives?

God's call to those who would follow Him has never been a call to blend in nor to be loved by our culture; it has always been a call to _____. In that way, then, it is literally a call to be mocked by the very culture from which we are supposed to be set apart.

Discussion 3. Do you believe it is possible to pursue holiness and pursue popularity with the world at the same time? Do you believe loving people well will always make you popular with them? Why or why not?

The scriptural admonition that we "fear God" Who is the ultimate judge of our souls, is like the attitude of reverence and respect we might have for a _____. This attitude is foundational to our journey toward holiness.

Discussion 4. What kinds of things do you do (or CAN you do) to foster and maintain a healthy respect for God's authority in your life? What kinds of attitudes about God might make that "fear of God" difficult for you?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?