

1 Peter 1:23-25

²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was proclaimed to you.

Berean Study Bible

²³ You have been born again,
not from perishable seed, but imperishable,
by the living and abiding Word of God.
²⁴ Because, all flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like grass flowers,
The grass withers, and the flower falls,
²⁵ but the utterance of the Lord abides into the Age.
This is the utterance; the Gospel, to you.

My own translation

1

What's the Word? 1 Peter 1:23-25

The Word brings new life. 23a "born again... through..."

The Word is living. 23b "the living... Word of God"

The Word is enduring. 23b "enduring word of God"

The Word is Divine. 23b, 25a "Word of God... Word of the Lord"

The Word is steadfast. 25a "stands forever"

2

Mechanics of salvation. 1 Peter 1:23-25

Practicalities of salvation. 1:23

Internal change. 23a "born again"

Eternal change. 23b "seed"

Supernatural change. 23c "Word"

Problem needing salvation. 1:24

Worldly life. 24a "glory"

Worldly limits. 24b "withers... falls"

Power for salvation. 1:25

Word of God [the Father]. 23b "word of God"

Word of the Lord [Jesus Christ]. 25a "word of the Lord"

Word proclaimed [by the Spirit]. 25b “word proclaimed”

3

Power of God’s Word. 1 Peter 1:23-25

God’s Word is enlivening. 1:23

Scripture enables rebirth to new life. 23a “born again”

Scripture enables retaining new life. 23b “living”

God’s Word is enduring. 1:23-25a

Scripture applies at all times. 23c “abiding”

Scripture applies at all places. 24a “all flesh”

God’s Word is eternal. 1:25

Scripture lasts forever. 25a “into the Age”

We last forever. 25b “this is... to you”

4

Say something significant. 1 Peter 1:23-25

My reason to speak. 1:23

I have my new life. “born again”

I have my new Lord. “Word of God”

My requirement to speak. 1:24

Time is only temporary. “all flesh is like grass”

Eternity can be terrible. “withers... falls”

My resource to speak. 1:25

The message that outlasts me. “abides to the Age”

The message that is bigger than me. “Gospel”

5

News, that’s not new. 1 Peter 1:23-25

Good news, that’s not new. 1:23

The Good News will change you forever. 23a “born again”

The Good News will never change. 23b “abiding Word of God”

Bad news, that’s not new. 1:24

This life is only for a short time. 24a “like grass... flowers”

This life is preparation for beyond time. 24b-25a “but”

Best news, that's not new. 1:25

God's decrees carry beyond time. 25a "abides to the Age"

God's decrees carry you beyond time. 25b "Gospel to you"

6

Good News. Good gift. 1 Peter 1:23-25

I have been given a personal gift. 1:23

This gift is life-giving. 23b "living... Word of God"

This gift is life-sustaining. 23b "abiding Word of God"

I have been given a perspective on life. 1:24

Life is not as long as I would like. 24b "grass withers"

Life is not as great as I would like. 24b "flower falls"

I have been given a powerful tool. 1:25

My gift is beyond Time and Space. 25a "into the Age"

My gift is beyond my every need. 25b "Gospel, to you"

7

Be prepared. 1 Peter 1:23-25

Be prepared for decisions. 1:23

New birth turns me in the right direction. 23a "You have been born again"

God's Word fits me for the right direction. 23b "living and abiding Word of God"

Be prepared for disappointment. 1:24

My life is constrained by many limits. 24 "all flesh is like grass... withers"

My efforts are constrained by many limits. 24 "glory is like grass flowers"

Be prepared for delight. 1:25

I am being carried forever. 25a "into the Age"

I am being carried by good. 25b "the Gospel, to you"

8

Why are you wearing a grass skirt? 1 Peter 1:23-25

Begin with a photoshopped image of your head on a person wearing grass skirt and coconuts. "There is no occasion when this would be appropriate for me, or for you. Yet, too many Christians wrongly think it is ok to go into the world like this, every day."

Why it is inappropriate for Christians to dress in grass. 1:24

The grass of the world passes too quickly. 24b "The grass withers"

The glory of the world fades too quickly. 24b “the flower falls”

Why Christians are clothed in glory. 1:23

We are born into a new species by new seed. 23a “born again... seed”

We are born as a new and fruitful species. 23b “by the living and abiding Word...”

Why Christians celebrate our new birth. 1:25

Our Lord’s promises carry us into eternity. 25a “utterance of the Lord abides...”

Our Lord’s promises are good news starting now. 25b “the Gospel, to you”

9

Houston, we have a problem. 1 Peter 1:23-25

This is a popular, but erroneous quotation, of the radio transmission between the 1970 Apollo 13 astronauts and mission control, from the 1995 movie, Apollo 13. For the real story go to <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/50-years-ago-houston-we-ve-had-a-problem>

Minimising our problem / Problem minimisation. 1:23

Start again with a relaunch. 23a “You have been born again”

Continue with new equipment. 23b “...living and abiding Word of God”

Naming our problem / Problem identification. 1:24

We have damaged equipment. 24a “all flesh is like grass”

We have inadequate equipment. 24b “The grass withers”

Solving our problem / Problem rectification. 1:25

We have enduring solutions. 25a “the utterance of the Lord abides”

We have enjoyable solutions. 25b “the Gospel, to you”

10

Your time in the world is over. 1 Peter 1:23-25

It is time to stop thinking like the world. 1:23

I am now of a different world. 23a “You have been born again”

I now draw on different wisdom. 23b “living and abiding Word of God”

It is time to stop living like the world. 1:24

I will outlive this world. 24a “all flesh is like grass”

I will out-glory this world. 24b “grass withers, the flower falls

It is time to start living beyond the world. 1:25

I am a citizen of eternity. 25a “utterance of the Lord abides into the Age”

I am a recipient of blessing. 25b “the utterance; the Gospel, to you”

11

Destination: Glory. 1 Peter 1:23-25

You are designed for glory. 1:23

You have been born for a reason. 23a "You have been born"

You have been born again for a reason. 23b "living and abiding"

You have a desire for glory. 1:24

You have been created for glory. 24a "all flesh... and all its glory"

You have been created with glory. 24a "its glory is like grass flowers"

You are destined for glory. 1:25

You have an opportunity for glory. 25a "utterance of the Lord abides"

You have an opportunity by the Gospel. 25b "the Gospel, to you"

Other possible titles

Power of God's Word

Best before the 'use by' date.

Trace your life's trajectory.

Garden maintenance.

Commentary

Abide | Abiding

μένω [Strong's 3306] a verb meaning abide, remain, stay, wait.

Of the 118 occurrences of this word in the New Testament, 67 of those occurrences (57%) are in John's writings. 40 times in John's Gospel, 24 times in 1 John, and 3 times in 2 John.

The word occurs only twice by Peter; both occasions are here in 1 Peter 1:23 and 1:25.

Word | Wisdom

Λόγος [Strong's 3056] a noun meaning word, statement, wisdom, rationale, reasoning expressed by words. Pre-eminently used as a title of Christ in John 1:1. A frequently used word occurring 331 times in the New Testament, with 10 of those occurrences in 1 & 2 Peter, including here in 1 Peter 1:23.

From λέγω [Strong's 3004] meaning say, speak, "laying an argument to rest," that is, bringing a message to closure, moving to a conclusion.

Utterance | Saying

ῥῆμα [Strong's 4487] meaning, say, speak, tell, answer, bid, bring word, call, command. A noun found 70 times in the New Testament, including twice, here in 1 Peter 1:25, and once in 2 Peter 3:2. The emphasis is on interpersonal (often verbal) communication.

but the **utterance** of the Lord abides into the Age. This is the **utterance**; the Gospel, to you. 1 Peter 1:25

I want you to recall the **utterance** spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles. 2 Peter 3:2

Quotes and illustrations

Born again

You must be born again! John 3:3, 7

Many Christians have the mistaken notion that eternal life begins when they die. But that is not biblically accurate. Eternal life begins when we are born again into the Kingdom of God. David Jeremiah

The born-again Christian sees life not as a blurred, confused, meaningless mass, but as something planned and purposeful. Billy Graham

If Jesus is a teacher only, then all He can do is to tantalize us by erecting a standard we cannot come anywhere near. But if by being born again from above we know Him first as Saviour, we know that He did not come to teach us only. He came to make us what He teaches we should be. Oswald Chambers

Jesus proclaimed, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand... He is saying that a whole new order is about to enter history, and if you want to be a part of it, you will need a change so fundamental that the Gospel of John would later refer to it as a "new birth". Being born again was not meant to be a private religious experience that is hard to communicate... but rather the prerequisite for joining a new and very public movement - the Jesus and Kingdom of God movement. Jim Wallis

Worship is why we are born and why we are born again. Aiden Wilson Tozer

What good does it do me if Christ was born in Bethlehem once if he is not born again in my heart through faith? Origen

Yes, it's embarrassing to be born again, but imagine how embarrassing it must have been to be born the first time. At least this time you get to wear clothes! Rich Mullins

Churchgoers all across the nation say the Holy Spirit has entered them. They claim that God has given them a supernatural ability to follow Christ, put their sin to death, and serve the church. Christians talk about being born again say that they they were dead but now have come to life. We have become hardened to those words, but they are powerful words that have significant meaning. Yet when those outside the church see no difference in our lives, they begin to question our integrity, our sanity, or even worse, our God. And can you blame them? Francis Chan

Beware, I pray thee, of presuming that thou art saved. If thy heart be renewed, if thou shalt hate the things that thou didst once love, and love the things that thou didst once hate; if thou hast really repented; if there be a thorough change of mind in thee; if thou be born again, then hast thou reason to rejoice: but if there be no vital change, no inward godliness; if there be no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then thy saying "I am saved" is but thine own assertion, and it may delude, but it will not deliver thee. Charles Spurgeon

Everything you go through as a Christian is a training exercise behind which God has a divine purpose. He did not save you so that you could cruise into paradise on a luxury liner; He saved you to prepare you to be of use in His kingdom. The moment you were born again, He enrolled you in His school of suffering. And every affliction, every trial, is another lesson in the curriculum. David Wilkerson

Word of God

If we do not love the Bible, we certainly do not love the God who gave it to us; but if we do love God, then no other book in the entire world will be comparable in our minds. When God speaks, it is the delight of our ears to hear what he says. In other books there is some truth and some error. Apart from the Bible, the best book ever written has mistakes in it. It is not possible for fallible men to write infallible books. Somehow or other we either say more than is true or less than is true. The most skilful writer does not always keep along that hairline of truth that is more difficult to tread than a razor's edge. But Scripture never errs. Charles Spurgeon

Sharper than any double-edged sword. A sword with two edges has no blunt side; it cuts both this way and that. The Word of God is edge all over. It is alive in every part, and in every part keen to cut the conscience and wound the heart. Depend on it: not a verse in the Bible is superfluous or a chapter that is useless. Charles Spurgeon

The one who is truly born again will love the Word of God. R A Torrey

We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behaviour. John Stott

It is fashionable in some academic circles to exercise scholarly criticism of the Bible. In so doing, scholars place themselves above the Bible and seek to correct it. If indeed the Bible is the Word of God, nothing could be more arrogant. It is God who corrects us; we don't correct Him. We do not stand over God but under Him. R C Sproul

The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for. Martin Luther

The Word of God does not just pass on information, knowledge and logic for the mind, but is also living & full of the Spirit. Henry Hon

We need to encourage new believers to feed on God's Word—it is nourishment for the soul. Billy Graham

God and his word are the reality we need -- the Rock under our feet. John Piper

Feed on the word, have a listening ear and an obeying heart to have an instructing tongue. Royal Raj

The grass that withers

There are two kinds of beauty; there is a beauty which God gives at birth, and which withers as a flower. And there is a beauty which God grants when by His grace men are born again. That kind of beauty never vanishes but blooms eternally. Abraham Kuyper

Music and songs

Songs about being born again, 1:23a

Born again

Have you any room for Jesus? CWH 108

What the Lord has done in me. Ot 65

Where else have we to go. 6

You rescued me. Ot 45

Songs about the Word of God, 1:23b, 25

Ancient words. Ot 94

So many books (M Card). Ot 81

The Book (M Card)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet. Ot 63

Songs with a garden theme, 1:24

He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. 12

I come to the garden alone.

The earth is the Lord's.

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. What is something you once wore, but would never want wear again; or something you once wore, and would love to wear again?
 2. What sort of clothes did God expect people to wear when they appeared before Him (Genesis 35:2, Exodus 19:10-11). What do you think was the message implied by those sorts of clothes?
 3. Read Proverbs 18:21. Why are words powerful?
 4. Read Numbers 11:4-6. What was the complaint; Why did they complain; And how do we avoid becoming whingers?
 5. Read Isaiah 65:16. What is the attribute of God that is connected with blessing; and why is that attribute essential?
 6. Read Colossians 3:12-14. Write a brief definition of each attribute. We are told what to do, but not how to do it. How do we do it?
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