

**Fervent Love**  
1 Peter 4:7-11

**1. Be clear minded in PRAYER. v. 7**

***7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.***

Like the other apostles Peter believed the return of Jesus Christ could occur at any moment - (James 5:8; Rom. 13:11; Heb. 9:26; 1 John 2:18).

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 2 Pet. 3:9,10*

“What once drove Christians to look forward to final justice and impelled them to holy living has dissipated today in a feeble idea that somehow, though better methods, better techniques, better therapy, better self-development, better science and better computer how-how, the world is actually getting better.” Scot McKnight

**2. Be passionate in COMMITMENT. v. 8-9**

***8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.***

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eph. 4:2-3*

**3. Be diligent in SERVING. v. 10-11a**

***10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11a Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;***

*But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*  
1 Cor. 12:7

These verses teach us that every Christian has at least one ministry, opportunity, ability they can use to bless others! There are 5 Lists of spiritual “gifts” in the Bible - all different and probably not exhaustive. 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 12:28-30; 1 Pet. 4:10, Rom. 12:6-8, Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 7:7

- Word of Wisdom: I Cor. 12:8; Luke 6:9
- Word of Knowledge: I Cor. 12:8; Luke 18:22
- Faith: I Cor. 12:9; Acts 3:6-7
- Gifts of healing: I Cor. 12:9, 28; Acts 28:1-10
- Working of miracles: I Cor. 12:10; Acts 6:8
- Prophecy: I Cor. 12:10; I Thess. 5:20-21; Eph. 4:11
- Discerning of spirits: I Cor. 12:10; Luke 8:29
- Tongues: I Cor. 12:10; Acts 19:6
- Interpretation of tongues: I Cor. 12:10; 14:13-33
- Helping: I Cor. 12:28
- Administration: I Cor. 12:28; Acts 6:2-3
- Grace: Rom. 12:6; Eph. 3:7; 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11
- Ministry/service: Rom. 12:7; II Tim. 1:16-18
- Teaching: Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11-14
- Encouragement: Rom. 12:8; Heb. 10:24-25
- Giving: Rom. 12:8; I Cor. 13:3; Acts 4:32-35
- Leadership: Rom. 12:8; Acts 13:12
- Mercy: Rom. 12:8; Luke 5:12-13

Stewardship is about faithfully using what God has given you in ways that line up with His purposes.

*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Tim. 6:17-19*

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7*

#### **4. Be focused on GLORIFYING God! v. 11b**

***11b ...so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.  
1 Cor. 10:31

## **APPLICATION**

1. Be clear minded in PRAYING. v. 7
2. Be passionate in LOVING COMMITMENT to one another. v. 8-9
3. Be diligent in SERVING. v. 10-11a
4. Be focused on GLORIFYING. v. 11b

## **Discussion Questions**

- Read over 1 Pet. 4:7-11. Try to summarize the verse in one word or short sentence.
- How does the phrase “The end of all things is near” help motivate us to endure suffering for Christ?
- What do you think of the statement, “I like Jesus, but not the church”? Why do people say this? How would you answer this statement?
- Read 1 Cor. 12:12-26. What observations do you make about “members” of the body? What challenges and encouragements do you observe?
- Look over the list in #3 in your notes of ministries, opportunities, and abilities also known as “gifts”. Tell about a time you were served/loved by someone with one of these gifts. Pick one you think you’ve been given.
- Read Romans 12:10. What do you think are the biggest hinderances to our church loving each other in Christ? What are your hinderances?
- What is one action step you can take to love others at Valley Church more “fervently”? Hospitality? Service? Finances? Prayer? Other?