



LIFE IN

EXILE

THRIVING IN A
COVID-19 WORLD



ADDING GOODNESS

¹ Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: ² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:1-11

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:1-11

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

2 Peter 1:1-11

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

2 Peter 1:1-11

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:1-11

Exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

1 Peter 1:1

Four Major Exiles of the Israelites:

Exile in Egypt for 430 years

Exile in Babylon for 70 years

Exile in Persia/Medes for at least 105 years

Exile under Rome for 133 years

The Israelites spent a minimum of 738 years
living as exiles

He has given us a precious faith
(vs. 1)

He has given us precious promises
(vs. 4)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such
things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

“agathos” best translated as “good”

“areté” best translated as
“excellence”

“kalos” best translated as “beautiful”

An excellent Christian has the “areté”
of Christlikeness



**1) REACHING YOUR
FULL POTENTIAL
IN CHRIST**

Full potential by the world's standards is still mediocrity by God's standards. We will never be able to be the best we can be apart from Christ.

The biggest fallacy is that salvation
is a spiritual finish-line instead of
a spiritual starting-line

We are a finished product when it comes to our salvation, but we are a work in progress when it comes to our sanctification

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant... ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature.

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹ Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.
² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3



2) EMULATING THE EXCELLENCIES OF CHRIST

“¹⁵ But just as he who called you is [excellent],
so be [excellent] in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written:
“Be [excellent], because I am [excellent].”

1 Peter 1:15-16

He is not calling us to DO,
He is calling us to BE

The imperfect man or woman must
look to the perfect example of Christ

The more of a student you become
of the excellencies of Christ, the
more excellent you will become.
Knowing and experiencing Christ will
rub off on you.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.

1 Peter 1:15-16



**3) WINNING
BATTLES
THROUGH CHRIST**

Once COVID-19 has passed, our lives should not go back to normal! We should be better for it, not worse for it. We should be closer to God, not further from Him.

Your morality will be tested
irrespective of your schedule

Satan preys on our isolation, our tiredness and our boredom. His goal is to make you succumb to temptation so that you feel so ashamed that you stop believing that excellence is actually attainable.

¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom in whom *is* the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers.

Daniel 5:11-12 (NKJV)

¹² Inasmuch as **an excellent spirit**, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar.

Daniel 5:11-12 (NKJV)

³ Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because **an excellent spirit *was* in him**; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:3 (NKJV)



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