

“Urgent Hours and the Ministry of the Spirit”
(Team Influential Series)

The Ministry of the Spirit

June 21, 2026

1Peter 4:1-11

NOTE: “Action Items” in an Epistle Epistles are “**OCCASIONAL Letters**”

...The context for Peter is ~65 AD (30+ yrs from Easter/Pentecost) ...There is SUFFERING (v. 1-2)—and needed motivation; there is Cultural POLLUTION (v. 3-4)—and needed wisdom to navigate! ...When we get to v. 7, there is URGENCY—and “Action Items” for them to Implement.

...**What is their (1Pet) “Urgency”??**

...**What is Creating Your “URGENCY”?**

URGENCY

v. 7 ...**The Urgency of Their Hour!**

What's the Urgency of 1Peter?? ... it's an **“ALL THINGS URGENCY”** ...It's a "God's Big Purpose Urgency"—It's a "Existence-Clock-Ticking-Urgency".

**I live in a World with an “ALL THINGS AGENDA”!! ...a World with “Timing, Seasons, & Strategy”
...Successes & Setbacks & Goals ...a world that is NOT RANDOM nor “Authored-by-US”!! ...So,
there is an “ALL THINGS”—and—a “My Thing” in This World!**

...w/o this awareness—I AM in Charge of My Sense of URGENCY!!

... “ “ “ —My ‘Pace,’ my ‘Engagement,’ my ‘Intensity’ is defined by ME, my Peeps, my
Generation, my Culture, my traditions!

...**God’s Got an “ALL THINGS” Mission Going on!!**

- **In That “All Things Mission/Game”— Every Moment in God and Through Us is NOT THE SAME!** ...THIS critically helps to rescue us from our "Auto-pilot Mindset"!! ...GOD is an ACTIVE God! God has a PLAN (that varies; it requires us to "Keep in Step" with the Spirit)! ...SATAN is a personality with variation! ...The WORLD is corrupt and futile, but there are seasons where this is WORSE than others!
- Peter speaks of "Their Hour" as the motivating force behind what he's about to say! ... (v. 7) ***“The end of all things is at hand”***
 - **PAUL also has “Game Clock” Urgency! ...**

2 Tim 3:1ff ¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
... v. 2 = ‘symptoms of INDIVIDUALISM’!!!

?? – “The Last Days of What??” ...of “The All Things Game Clock”!!

2 Tim 1:6-7 ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

...Timothy gets a Holy Spirit gifting & power Reminder! ...**Urgent Hours NEED the Power of the Holy Spirit and the Function of the Spirit's Ministry Gifts!!** ...Urgent Hours Need COURAGE Timothy!!

2 **Tím 2:1-4** ¹ You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Timothy gets a "Soldier Reminder" in Paul's hour of urgency! ...He gets a helpful and much needed reminder—"We Are NOT at Peacetime!"

2 **Tím 2:14-15, 20-26** ¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ...

²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

... "Reminders & Charges" are appropriate tone of voice for church leaders (think intense coaches)! ... "Present yourself to God, a worker"

...Paul engages this hour of urgency with a lesson on "The Variety of Vessels" in the arsenal of God! The reality of the unique callings that sit in each Christian's life-- "set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work"

Back to Peter...

- The Hour Calls forth a Particular Mindset: "therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."

... Urgent Hour Priorities = Healthy Prayer Lives & Healthy Relational Lives!

...**NOTE: It is a foolish notion, when a church begins to think it can answer the urgent hours of our callings with minimum prayer and ungodly relationships!!**

v. 10-11 ...Peter's Strategic Wisdom for such an Urgent Hour! ... "**be good stewards of God's varied grace**".

?? - What is "God's varied grace"?

Rom 12:3-8 [Gifts of Grace] ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Paul Is Mindful of What "GRACE" has Imparted to HIM!!—AND, of His Responsibility to TRANSFER Grace to Others!

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Eph 3:1-2 ¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,

INFLUENTIAL

?? - What is Peter's Main Admonition in this Urgent Hour? ... "STEWARD the Grace that God has Placed in YOU!"

...How many can see there's a Big Difference between "Attending Church" and "STEWARDING GRACE"!!

"INFLUENCERS" ...An influencer is someone with the power to shape the opinions, behaviors, or purchasing decisions of others.

... Long Before this concept emerged in the "Information Age" ...God had designed HIS COMMUNITY to "Influence Each Other" via our being "Stewards of God's Varied Grace"!! ...**Grace that equips, encourages, envisions, and strengthens flows through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in and through us!** (Eph 4:16)

"Influential" has a few parts (in Scripture and in our practice)

(1) It calls us to recognize that God's "Grace" is found in "VARIED" forms in each of us!—It is Transferred by the Holy Spirit Circulatory System! (ie, we're NOT the same, by design—1Pet 4; Rom 12; 1Cor 12)

(2) It calls us to "STEWARD" (ie, to manage, to cultivate, to grow, to mature, to invest in, to be intentional about, etc.)

(3) Peter's Broad Categories of God's Varied Grace ...v. 11 [Helpful & Practical Categories]

(a.) Whoever Speaks

(b.) Whoever Serves

SUMMER WORKSHOPS