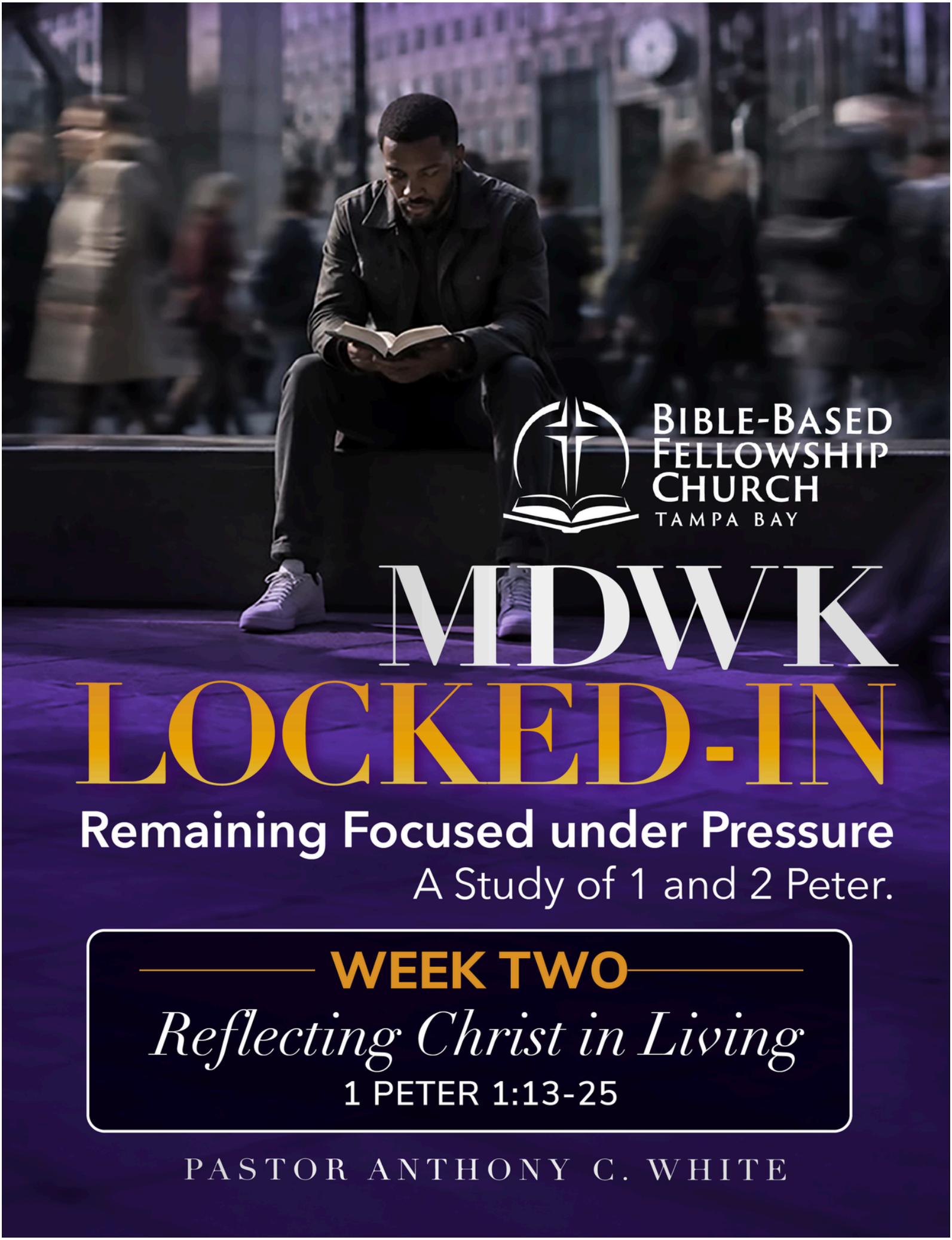


BIBLE-BASED FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

MDWK LOCKED-IN

Remaining Focused under Pressure

A Study of 1 and 2 Peter.

WEEK TWO

Reflecting Christ in Living

1 PETER 1:13-25

PASTOR ANTHONY C. WHITE

Icebreaker

In pairs, answer this question: Who is someone whose life made you want to live differently, and why?

The Hallmarks of a Christ-Centered Life

Peter writes to scattered, suffering believers to remind them of who they are and how that identity should shape their conduct. Having just described their salvation (vv. 1-12), he now pivots with "Therefore" — everything that follows is a response to grace already received. Peter instructs them on how to remain focused in their difficult season.

The Hallmarks of a Christ-Centered Life

- Hope in God — Where we place our confidence - v13
- Holy Living — How we conduct ourselves - vv 14-15
- Honoring God — How we respond to God - v17
- Heartfelt Love — How we treat others - v22

Study Objectives

1. Discover how to anchor one's hope in God.
2. Identify how to pursue holy living.
3. Commit to making choices that honor God.
4. Demonstrate actions that reflect heartfelt love.

1 Peter 1:13-25 ESV

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action and being sober-minded,
set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the
revelation of Jesus Christ. [14] As obedient children, do not be conformed
to the passions of your former ignorance, [15] but as he who called you is
holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, [16] since it is written, "You shall
be holy, for I am holy." [17] And if you call on him as Father who judges
impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear
throughout the time of your exile, [18] knowing that you were ransomed
from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable
things such as silver or gold, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, like
that of a lamb without blemish or spot. [20] He was foreknown before the
foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the
sake of you [21] who through him are believers in God, who raised him
from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
[22]Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere
brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23] since you
have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable,
through the living and abiding word of God; [24] for
"All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
[25] but the word of the Lord remains forever."
And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Table Discussion

Real-Life Scenario: "My Old Life Still Feels Normal"

Scenario:
Marcus recently accepted Christ and is excited about his new faith. However, many parts of his life have not changed. His closest friends still invite him to places and activities that were a regular part of his life before becoming a Christian. At work, coworkers sometimes gossip about others, and Marcus finds himself joining in because he wants to fit in. On social media, he continues following content that conflicts with the values he is beginning to learn from Scripture.

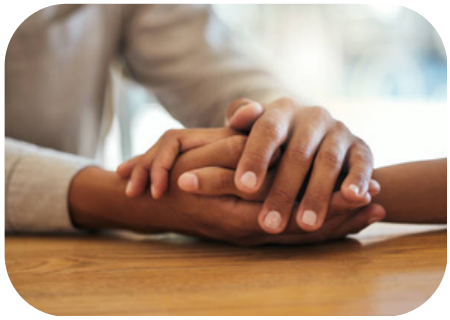
Marcus knows that following Christ should make a difference in how he lives, but he is struggling. He wonders:

Do I have to change everything about my life just because I became a Christian? And how do I know what really needs to change?

As a group, discuss Marcus's situation in light of 1 Peter 1:13–25, using the passage to guide your responses to the following questions.

1. What does Peter's instruction to "not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance" (vv. 14–16) mean for Marcus?
2. How might Marcus distinguish between things he simply used to do and things that actually conflict with his new life in Christ?
3. How should remembering that he was redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (vv. 18–19) influence his decisions?
4. How could Marcus make changes without believing that he must become perfect overnight?
5. What role should other mature Christians play in helping Marcus grow?

In Summary



Peter challenges believers to allow their identity in Christ to be reflected in the way they live. He emphasizes four characteristics of a Christ-centered life:

- Hope in God keeps us focused on His grace and promises.
- Holy Living calls us to be set apart and reflect God's character.
- Honoring God reminds us to live with gratitude and obedience because of the price Christ paid for our redemption.
- Heartfelt Love demonstrates our transformed lives through sincere love for one another.

Key Takeaway:
When we are Locked-In to Christ, our hope, conduct, devotion, and relationships should reflect that we belong to Him.

Looking Ahead

Reflecting on 1 Peter 1:13–25, which of the four hallmarks—Hope in God, Holy Living, Honoring God, or Heartfelt Love—presents the greatest challenge for you in your Christian walk? Consider one intentional step you can take to grow in that area.

Bible Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

Notes:

Black Sea
BITHYNIA and PONTUS
N
GALATIA
ASIA
Antioch
CAPPADOCIA
Ephesus
Colossae
Iconium
Lystra
Derbe
PISIDIA
Tarsus
CILICIA and SYRIA
Antioch
Asia Minor in the First Century
Salamis
Paphos
CYPRUS
Mediterranean Sea
0
200 Miles
0
200 Kilometers
Damascus
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NEW HERE?

If tonight was your first MDWK with us, thank you for being here. We don't take lightly that you chose to spend your Wednesday with us. We pray you felt welcomed, encouraged, and strengthened. We'd love to see you again soon, you're always welcome at The Base!