

**“The MINDSET of the Church Jesus is Building” (part 3)**  
**February 7, 2016**

**1 Peter 1:13-17**

**CORE:** Key to the Church standing AND transforming a world hostile to Jesus—is our MINDSET—a mind “set on things above” (Colossians 3:2).

*“Attitude determines altitude”- Joyce Meyer*

**According to Peter, it is crucial we keep our minds:**

**1. FOCUSED**

**(v. 13) “Gird your minds for action”—to gather up a long robe, tie it, in order to get ready to move (i.e., remove distractions or hindrances) i.e., Hebrews 12:1ff**

NOTE: The first time the phrase “**gird up**” is mentioned is **Exodus 12:11**. Israel, captive in Egypt (on the eve of 1<sup>st</sup> Passover), received the “lamb slain for them” with their “**loins girded.**” They were **ready to walk out of 100s of years of slavery—into freedom they’d never experienced, moving into a new way of thinking.** Egypt called them slaves. God declared them free. **They had to choose.**

- **To RETHINK their whole lives**
- **To let truth devastate every lie they’d ever believed.**
- NOTE: **Job 38:3**, after season of intense trials, God said, “**Gird up your mind; brace yourself**” for a radically new look at life; you are *not* a victim!!

NOTE: “**Born again**” involves a **radical reassessing all of life:** your world & everything you’ve ever believed needs to be rebuilt. **It’s a PROCESS.** One they struggled to fully believe (i.e., “wilderness wanderings”)

**(v. 13) “Now gird your minds for action” - the new life is not obsession with your past or preoccupation with the future; it calls us to be fully present in the NOW. (A complete refocusing; pulling distracting/debilitating thinking out of your way!) Rethinking:**

- **The views we’ve had of God** (limiting Him, misjudging Him, projecting onto Him every bad experience we’ve had with father/mother figures, misinterpretations of His Word)
- **The way we see ourselves** (*Stop “verbal abuse”; cease believing lies; i.e., Steve & Wendy Blacklund—“Laugh at lies therapy sessions.”*)

**2. HOPE-FILLED**

**v. 13- “Set your hope fully”—confident Jesus will reveal Himself to be faithful (not just when He returns—but when He fulfills His promises in your life!)**

**“Consider the lilies” Luke 12:27**—to “consider” is an astronomer’s term for gazing at the stars, **giving your mental ability COMPLETELY TO ONE THING.**

NOTE: He said, *“(YOU) begin to think in a different way, and your faith will increase.”* I’m faithful to the lilies/sparrows. Think about how much more I care for you!!!

Being **hope-filled** requires being “sober”— opposite of being **drunk & delusional.**

- **Worry & self-pity-** intoxicate with the illusion we are **victims**
- **Bitterness** intoxicates us with **vengeance**—the illusion of self-righteousness, making us the inspector & corrector of all

NOTE: Being “sober” is not being “somber.” Actually being “**filled with HS**” brings us into the overwhelmingly joyful place of **seeing life from God’s vantage point!**

### 3. HOLY

(v. 16) **“Be holy” - a declaration; more than a rule to obey; i.e., “Be healed”**  
**“Like the Holy One who called you”**—because He started us, we share His nature

**“Holy” - Separated from/set apart to Him**

**a. Receiving- totally dependent upon Him.** He is HOLY—consistent with Himself, dependent on none but Himself, delights in Himself, (if we are holy, we delight in Him & depend on Him, too).

**b. Refusing- to be conformed to our former way of thinking/living.**

**“Conformed” - to pattern yourself after a model inconsistent with whom you are**

**“Your former lusts/ignorance”**—that which tries to return you to what you used to be (Joyce Meyer—“Life in the Kingdom is like monkey bars. You must let go of your past to move forward.” Jesus did not say, “Remember your past”—He said, “Remember Me.”).

**We FEAR God alone**—therefore we **OBEY HIM. He is LOVE...**and His love swallows up all other fears. The **FEAR OF GOD displaces all other fears!**

(i.e., sports team can endure the jeers of the crowd at the game—because they “FEAR” the Monday morning “crowd”—the owners and coaches who watch the game film with them. It keeps them focused.) Playing for another audience.

Peter- **“Be holy” because you live for your Father...who is Holy.**  
**Stay focused. Stay filled with hope. Live only to please the One who delights in you!**