

## 1 Peter 4:7-11

Living in Light of Christ's Return

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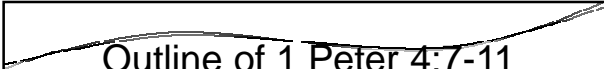
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### Outline of 1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:6 = resurrection
1 Peter 4:7 = "the end of all things"
"sober minded for prayer"

#### Verses:

8 Love,   forgive
9           Hospitality
10          Use Spiritual gifts
11          Speak God's word
Glorify God

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### The Imminent Return of Christ

1 Peter 4:7 The end of **all things** is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.

Philippians 4:5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. **The Lord** is near.

James 5:8, 9b You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord** is near...behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

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### Excursus: Jesus' Imminent Return

Mark 13:35-37 "Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—in case He should come suddenly and find you asleep. "What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God...

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### The Apostolic View on Imminence

"Primitive Christianity waits for the Jesus who has come already as the One who is still to come. The hope of an imminent coming of the exalted Lord in Messianic glory is, however, so much to the fore that in the NT the terms (parousia) are never used for the coming of Christ in the flesh (incarnation)" (TDNT, Parousia, Vol 5, 865).

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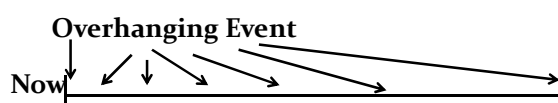
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### The Definition of Imminence

**Imminence:** An event that COULD happen at any moment – not that it MUST happen in any certain timeframe.

**Certainty:** The event will happen and could at any moment.

**Uncertainty:** The timing of the event.




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### Until Then: Love One Another

1 Peter 4:8-9 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

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### Use Your God Given Gifts For His Glory!

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 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; **so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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### Application

1. We should rejoice and prepare for the imminent return of Christ, not despair for the coming of the Anti-Christ.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the **blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

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**1. Answering Objections To Imminence**

- Many passages clearly teach the imminent return of Christ.
- Any imminent event must not have a precursor before it.
- What do we do with passages that **seem** to indicate that precursors occur prior to the end?

Imminent	→	70 <sup>th</sup> Week	Millennium
Can't know		Can know	

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**1. Answering Objections To Imminence**

1 Peter 4:7a The end of all things is near.

Matt 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, **for this must take place**, but the end is not yet.

How do we reconcile these two passages?

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**1. Answering Objections To Imminence**

Matt 24:7-8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All **these are** but the beginning of birth pains.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and security," then sudden destruction **will come** upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman.

Will come	→	These are Birth Pains	Millennium
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### Application

2. We, as the people of God, must forgive one another as we too have been forgiven much.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

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### Application

3. We must remember that every believer's spiritual gift is necessary for the edification of the entire body.

1 Cor 12:7,12 **To each** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

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### 3. Every Believer Is Valuable

Romans 12:6-8 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*:

if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

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