

In the End
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The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. 1 Peter 4:7-9

Peter's point in declaring that the end is coming soon is to remind us of the kind of behavior Jesus expects of His followers during these last days. First, he calls us to earnest and disciplined prayer. This is a critical reminder, because very few Christians are either earnest or disciplined in our prayers these days. Our prayers are largely passionless, often simply a repetition of words we have memorized. We do not storm the gates of heaven with prayers from a heart that desperately loves God and is deeply concerned about those around us. We generally only remember to pray when we have an urgent need that we cannot easily meet. What would it look like for you to spend the end of this pandemic time reengaging in earnest and disciplined prayer? He goes on to call them to continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. This is not the call to keep being good to those who take care of you. Peter calls us to deeply love the people who have hurt us, who need their sins covered by our love. The only place I know to find the power to love those who hurt me is in prayer. These two calls go hand in glove. And what does it look like to be a person of earnest prayer and deep love? You will be generous with all the blessings God gives you in order to meet the needs of others. Don't we all wish there were more people in our world who, out of a deepening relationship with God, love others in their worst moments and generously meet needs? There can be more people like that if you and I are willing to become them.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, help me to be the kind of person Peter calls me to be today. Help me to pray with passion and discipline, to love deeply and to live generously. Amen.