

#### 4. 1 Peter: Ideas & Images

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2.9*

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14.16*

Jesus "at the right hand of God" by itself stands as a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus.... To sit at the right hand of God is a place of power and authority, it is the same as sitting on the throne of God itself.

It's important that we \_\_\_\_\_ up to the ideas and images, not just those that become our idols but to all ideas and images, that are hostile to the culture of the Kingdom of God, for even those who profess the Name of Jesus and show signs of piety can still live "life away from God."

Peter offers us several ideas and images that constitute life \_\_\_\_\_ God, that is, images for God and for the Church! He speaks of Jesus as "a living stone" and those who come to Him as "living stones," who, together, form "a spiritual house," the Church.

'One who \_\_\_\_\_ will not panic' (NRSV, Isaiah 28.16). The Jewish Greek Bible translates this text saying, *One who trusts will not be ashamed or confounded....* And the Targum, the Aramaic translation of the Bible in the first century, translates it saying, *One who trusts shall not be moved when trouble comes....*

When our lives are rooted and grounded in Christ and the storms of life beat against us, our house will stand (Matthew 7.24-27).

We are to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the mighty acts of God, more specifically, the birth, the life, the teachings, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His ascension into heaven where He sits on the right hand of God the Father.

The Gospel of John highlights for us the idea of the disciples sharing a singular heart, that is, we are to be of \_\_\_\_\_ mind and purpose.

In Jesus we find "the \_\_\_\_\_" of life. Before the believing community were known as Christians they were known as "The Way." The point being, they were known for their way of living, not their way of thinking. What was their way of living? They knew how to love! Our way of living, that is loving, is our witness to the truth of God Who is Jesus Christ, not a theological system. As we practice the way and witness to the truth we discover the life, that is the abiding life in Christ, which is eternal life here on earth by the power of the Holy Spirit, then forever with Christ in heaven.

What we believe is important, for ideas and images govern our decisions and actions. But we believe in a \_\_\_\_\_, not a way of thinking.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the image by which we are called to live, and like Jesus, to humble ourselves before God and be obedient to death, death to sin that we may be alive to

God in Christ. This is *the way, the truth and the life* -Christ Himself.

When the image of the Cross \_\_\_\_\_ our heart, and we know Jesus is *the way the truth and the life*, He offers us a Word to ponder: *I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in My Name you ask Me for anything, I will do it.* John 14.13-14