

## Expanded translation of I Pet 4:7-11

In conclusion and summary, the consummation of all things, and the end of our suffering, war with sin, sojourning, and the revelation of Christ is in a state of having been prepared and ready to be fulfilled. This is a present certainty even though it is yet a future reality. This hope of judgement as well as reward would put certain responsibilities on us as people who live in light of eternity. Therefore, this then is the way we should live:

1. Be level headed, reasonable and practical in order that you may be in the proper state of mind to pray effectively.
2. Of first importance, have fervent love toward one another. The reason you should do this is to live up to the standard of love, which is as the saying "love covers a multitude of sins".
3. Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. Do this because the need is great, because you yourselves are sojourners, and because the gospel is furthered by such action.
4. Because every one of you has freely received a spiritual gift, Use this gift to serve one another in whatever way presents itself to use it for the benefit and upbuilding of one another and the community as a whole. You must keep in mind that you are being entrusted by God with His many faceted grace. You must therefore use this grace to build up God's family, knowing that your gift is not your own to be hoarded, but must be shared for the good of all. You must also know that we will answer to God for the things done with the gifts given to us.

Here are some specific ways that you may use your gifts:

Whoever has been given a gift of speaking, he must speak according to the standard of one entrusted to speak the very oracles of God.

Whoever has been given a gift of serving, he must serve as if using the strength which God abundantly supplies (which he is).

The purpose for all of these actions is that God may be glorified in our actions as well as the pagans who see our actions and thus are ashamed of their slander and turn to God. This glory to God should take place in all things we do through Jesus Christ, to whom is glory and power forever and ever, amen.