

# Pressing In\*

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## Entering the Throne Room

To our Living Hope who restores and strengthens, to our Rock be power and glory forever!

From the ends of the earth, Your people cry out to You. We are facing loss. Yet, our hope is in You. By Your great mercy you transform us from death to life and reverse our circumstances. We belong to You. (1:1-12.)

- Nameless are known.
- Rejected are chosen.
- Abandoned are claimed and given an inheritance that cannot fade.
- Unprotected find refuge.
- Hurts become help in Your refiner's fire.
- Trials inexplicably turn to inexpressible joy.
- Lost find purpose in being part of Your story.

You are the One who sees me!

## Seeking Mercy

Will You forgive me for embracing my earthly citizenship rather than my heavenly one? I'm sorry for finding identity in my \_\_\_\_\_. Instead, I embrace Your call to be \_\_\_\_\_. (Choose items from the lists below to fill the blanks, or add your own.)

Problem Identities	Replacement Identities
good works	a royal priest (2:9)
busyness	one who abides in your marvelous light (2:9)
appearance	Your very own possession (2:9)
online persona	a truth teller (3:10)
political party	a peacemaker (3:11)
family	a peacekeeper (3:11)
relationships	one who is holy as You are (1:15-16)
positions	a child who loves in a way that unselfishly overlooks sin (4:8)
hurts	one who repays evil with blessing (3:9)
suffering	one who does good even when it brings suffering (2:20-24)
	a child who rejoices at the privilege of suffering for the Name (4:16)

Will you help me to stop chasing my own desires and instead pursue Your will (4:2)?

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\* Unless otherwise noted, all references and much of the phraseology in this lectionary come from 1 Peter (from the NLT, NIV, or our paraphrases).

## Being Still

I feel lost. I want to pursue Your will, but right now I'm unable to fulfill my calling and struggling to find purpose. Yet, You say I am called according to Your purpose (Romans 8:28). What is Your purpose? What are you calling me to in this current season? I'm listening.

*(This space indicates a period of stillness.)*

## Advocating

I'm watching with You. I'm wrestling together with You over my heart's concerns.

*(Fill in the blanks below with: 1) the names of students, colleagues, neighbors, or friends, or 2) people disproportionately affected directly or indirectly by the pandemic like children, the elderly, girls and women, or those living in particular countries, cities, or refugee camps.)*

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I'm concerned about my flock, the ones you've called me to care for. They are like sheep without a shepherd. Some have wandered away. Others are lost. (Chapter 2 & 5:1-4)

- Will you heal \_\_\_\_\_ and give them a taste of Your kindness?
- Will you cause \_\_\_\_\_ to cry out for nourishment?
- Will you call \_\_\_\_\_ out of darkness and shine Your marvelous light on the pathway home?
- Does \_\_\_\_\_ need to be fully lost before they can be found, to stumble and fall before they can stand?
- Will you give \_\_\_\_\_ a new identity and purpose?

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My sisters and brothers around the world are experiencing loss (5:8-10).

- Living Hope, will you help \_\_\_\_\_ to watch and wait, to climb the ladder to Your throne room and press in with purpose?
- Rock, will you restore, support, and strengthen \_\_\_\_\_ so that they can stand firm to the end?

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We also lift \_\_\_\_\_ who is experiencing unimaginable loss.

- Will you heal, provide, protect, and soothe?
- Will you transform and reverse?
- Will you be their Living Hope?

## Going Forth

With a better understanding of Your purposes and a renewed sense of my calling, I leave my worries at Your feet and return to the world, but I will be back soon for You are the only One who truly sees me.