

Keeping Your Faith in a Hostile World

1 Peter 3:13-22 ¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! ¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. ¹⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison-- ²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. (NLT)

1. Doing Good Works is Our Purpose in Life.

Titus 2:14 He (JESUS) gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions. (CEB)

Ephesians 2:10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (NRS)

2. Righteous Suffering Imitates Jesus.

1 Peter 3:17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! (NLT)

3. Righteous Suffering Keeps Your Conscience Clear.

1 Peter 3:15-16 ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But **do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear.** Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. (NLT)

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. (NLT)

1 Peter 3:15 "You must worship Christ as Lord of your life." (NLT)

4. The Secret is: Our Confident Hope in Jesus!

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. (NLT)

1 Peter 3:21b-22 It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. (NLT)

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge to You that I have sinned against You in many ways. I believe You died on the cross for my sins. I want You to come into my life and be my savior. Forgive me of all my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. Come into my life and be my Lord and help me become the person You want me to be. Amen.