

Series "Living God Gives A Living Hope"
"Mindset For Suffering"
1 Peter 3:13-17
Study-14

1 Peter 3:14-15 – God's Grace and Suffering.

1 Peter 1:1-2:10 – God's Grace and Salvation.

1 Peter 2:11-3:12 – God's Grace and Submission.

1 Peter 3:13-5:14 – God's Grace and Suffering.

1 Peter – "Living God Gives A Living Hope"

1 Peter 1:1-5 – Peter begins his letter "with words of wonder and worship instead of worry."

Thought Of The Passage: "For The Believer, Unjust Suffering Is Always Much Better Than Deserved Punishment."

We will look at 7 Mindsets To Guard Against Fear And Confusion When Suffering:

1 Peter 3:13

"Who is there to harm you" – The Context: Peter concluded 1 Peter 2:11-3:12, God's Grace and Submission; 1 Peter 3:12 – Be Conscious Of God's Presence.

- 1. Verse 13 – Mindset – Having A Passion For Goodness:** "Who is there to harm you" – "mistreat, to cause real damage, attitude or activity." – "if you prove zealous for what is good?" – This speaks of "wholehearted devotion to, an absolute passion for;" "good" – "generosity, unselfishness, kindness, thoughtfulness."

Peter asks a rhetorical question. The expected answer is "Nobody!" Those that would follow Psalm 34 that Peter just shared.

This Is A General Rule.

Peter is saying, regardless of what others may do to us, they can't injure the believer in the ultimate sense, Matthew 10:28.

1 Peter 3:14 – "But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness," – That suffering is indeed a possibility; suffering for doing that which is right.

We are preserved through suffering not from suffering!

1 Peter 4:12-19

Our enemies might hurt us, but they cannot harm us. Only we can harm ourselves if we fail to trust God.

- 2. Verse 14 – Mindset – If We Do Suffer We Are Uniquely Blessed By God:** The word “blessed” or “happy” expresses the motive for the privilege. Same as “blessed” in Matthew 5:10-12.

God will use suffering to mature us, to make us stable persons,
1 Peter 5:10.

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 Teaches that our trials prepare us for what is ahead.

James 1:2-4 – “Consider” (count); This word comes as an accounting term. It means “to evaluate;” it is an honest assessment of the figure.

1 Peter 3:14 – Peter quotes from Isaiah 8:12-13.

- 3. Verse 14 – Mindset – Don’t Panic And Don’t Worry:** “AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION,” – The word “fear” – Greek, “phobos;” we get phobia; “the fear that seizes us with terror, causes us to take flight, running away.”

The word “troubled” – “Don’t be disturbed, terrified, or distressed; don’t be alarmed by their threats, agitated, John 14:1.

Matthew 6:27

1 Peter 3:15

- 4. Verse 15 – Mindset – Acknowledge Jesus As Lord Over Our Sufferings:** “but” – in contrast to being fearful and troubled for suffering in doing right, Peter says we are to “sanctify;” the word “sanctify” – “to set apart, to acknowledge as holy, to treat as sacred, to reverence” Christ as Lord, “as master, as first in our lives.”

“in your hearts,” – when the Scriptures use this term, it refers to the real person.

Jesus, during His popularity, declared this requirement to any that would follow Him! Luke 14:25-27

Romans 12:1-2

5. Verse 15 – Mindset – In Suffering, Be Prepared To Witness: “always being ready to make a defense”

We are “always being ready to make a defense” – (KJV) “be ready always to give an answer” – Our English word “apology” comes from the Greek word “Apologia,” translated “answer;” it means “a defense presented in court.”

“to everyone who asks you” – when we least expect it, someone may ask to give an account; “rational account given in response;” – “for the hope that is in you,” – The Living Hope! 1 Peter 1:3

“Our faith must be a firsthand discovery and not a secondhand story.”

“yet” – “but” – “with gentleness and reverence;” – This witness must be given “with gentleness and reverence” (respect).

“gentleness” – humility, courtesy, not in arrogance but with self-control.

“reverence” – literally, “fear, reverence and caution” towards God or even the persons listening.

1 Peter 3:16

6. Verse 16 – Mindset – Our Walk And Words Must Match: Our word “conscience” comes from two Latin words meaning “with” and “to know.” The conscience is that internal judge that witnesses to us, that enables us to “know with,” either approving our actions or accusing, Romans 2:14-15.

Titus 1:15

1 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 10:22

No Double Life, No Secret Life: “good conscience”

“so that in the thing in which you are slandered,” – “to speak evil of, defame.”

Psalm 118:6

“will be put to shame.” – Because our “Walk And Words Match,” they are “humiliated, put to shame.”

The way we live as followers of God offends non-Christians.
Peter mentions the believer’s behavior 6X – 1 Peter 1:5, 18; 2:12; 3:1, 2, 16.

As a rule, Christians do not create problems, they reveal them.

Acts 6:15

7. Verse – 17 Mindset – Suffering Is God’s Providence:

1 Peter 3:17

Romans 8:28-30; 2 Timothy 3:12

“rather than for doing what is wrong.” – 1 Peter 4:15-16.

Isaiah 5:20

John 18:29-30 – which means “a person who does evil things.”

Application:

1. Mindset – Acknowledge Jesus As Lord Over Our Sufferings: “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,” – This means: what God is allowing is always good and right; I will trust Him.
2. Mindset – In Suffering, Be Prepared To Witness: “always being ready to make a defense” – Our faith must be a firsthand discovery and not a secondhand story.
3. A crisis (Suffering) creates the opportunity for witness. When a believer behaves with faith and hope, the unbelievers will take notice.