

First Peter

1 Pet. 3:14-17

1 Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

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1 Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake..."

Mt. 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

b. The right reaction, 3:14b “...happy *are ye...*”
(Mt. 5:10 “**Blessed** *are they...*”)

1 Pet. 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye**; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Jas. 5:11 **Behold, we count them happy which endure.** Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

c. The right resolve, 3:14c “...and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;”

Heb. 13:6 **So that we may boldly say**, The Lord *is* my helper, and **I will not fear** what man shall do unto me.

Prov. 29:25 **The fear of man bringeth a snare**: but whoso putteth his **trust in the LORD** shall be safe.

Caesar:

"Cowards die many times before their deaths,
The valiant never taste of death but once."

Julius Caesar (II, ii, 32-37)

<https://www.enotes.com/shakespeare-quotes/cowards-die-many-times-before-their-deaths>

Psa. 56:3 What time I am afraid, **I will trust in thee.**

2 Cor. 4:8 *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but **not forsaken**; cast down, but not destroyed;

2 Cor. 1:3 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 **Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.**

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Jn. 13:17 If ye know these things, **happy are ye if ye do them.**

When we suffer “for righteousness sake,” there are three ways “to be” –

1) Be happy.

2) Be not afraid.

3) Neither be troubled.

2. We are to suffer believingly, 3:15

a. The Lord enthroned in our hearts, 3:15a

1 Pet. 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...”

Mt. 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth **come forth from the heart**; and they defile the man.

19 For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

b. The Lord enthroned in our minds, 3:15b-c

(1) Be prepared, 3:15b “...and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...”

Original Word: ἀπολογία

Transliteration: apologia

Definition: a verbal defense, answer of defense (particularly in a law court).

apología = properly, a well-reasoned reply; a *thought-out response* to adequately address the issue(s) that is raised.

[An "apology" in *classical* times had nothing to do with saying, "I'm sorry," but rather was a *reasoned argument (defense)* that presented *evidence* (supplied *compelling proof*).]

<http://biblehub.com/greek/627.htm>

Acts 22:1 Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye **my defence** *which I make* now unto you.

Acts 25:16 To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence **to answer** for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

1 Cor. 9:3 Mine **answer** to them that do examine me is this,

Phil. 1:7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the **defence** and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. ...

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the **defence** of the gospel.

2 Tim. 4:16 At my first **answer** no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.

Original Word: ἐλπίς

Transliteration: elpis

Definition: hope, expectation, trust, confidence.

elpís (from *elpō*, "to anticipate, welcome") – **properly, expectation of what is sure** (certain); *hope*.

(2) Be practical, 3:15c "...with meekness and fear:"

3. We are to suffer blamelessly, 3:16-17

a. Our conscience must be right, 3:16a

1 Pet. 3:16 "Having a good conscience..."

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but **even their mind and conscience** is defiled.

1 Tim. 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared** with a hot iron;

Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, **having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience**, and our bodies washed with pure water.

"A 'good conscience' is one **that accuses when we think or do wrong and approves when we do right.**"

Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. 2 vols. Wheaton: Scripture Press Publications, Victor Books, 1989, 2:414. See Roy B. Zuck, "The Doctrine of Conscience," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 126:504 (October-December 1969):329-340.

2 Cor. 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, **the testimony of our conscience**, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

1 Tim. 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a **good conscience**, and *of* faith unfeigned:

Heb. 13:18 Pray for us: for we trust **we have a good conscience**, in all things willing to live honestly.

1 Pet. 2:19 For this *is* thankworthy, **if a man for conscience toward God endure grief**, suffering wrongfully.

b. Our conduct must be right, 3:16b-17

(1) Confound our foes, 3:16b "...that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

(2) Confront our foes, 3:17

1 Pet. 3:17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and **beaten them**, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

41 And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together** for good **to them that love God**, to them who are **the called according to *his* purpose.**

Conclusion

Heb. 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For **every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word** of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age**, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.