

# **“How to Shine in Suffering”**

## **1 Peter 3:13-17**

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### **I. Introduction**

A. We come in our study of 1 Peter to the third and main section.

1. Salvation
2. Submission
3. Now, suffering
  - a) This is the main purpose of Peter’s first letter.
  - b) Peter is writing to help the suffering Christians stand in suffering.

B. Why do Christians suffer?

1. We live in a sinful, fallen world.
2. Because of our own sins and others
3. We also suffer because we follow Jesus Christ.
  - a) This is the kind of suffering or persecution Peter is addressing. It’s suffering for righteousness.
4. In our text today, I want to point out six characteristics we need to be and do to stand strong and shine for Jesus when we suffer for His name’s sake.

### **II. Be Zealous (1 Peter 3:13)**

\* “And who is he that will harm you if you be followers of what is good?”

A. This is a rhetorical question

1. The answer is no one
2. “If you be followers of what is good?” (v. 13)
  - a) “Followers” is literally “zealous for good.”
3. No one can harm you
  - a) Jesus said, “Do not fear” (Matthew 10:28).
4. Don’t lose your zeal for godly living, and you will not be harmed

### **III. Be Fearless (1 Peter 3:14)**

A. You are “blessed” (v. 14)

1. “Happy”
2. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake” (Matthew 5:10-12)

3. And “they departed” (Acts 5:41)
  4. Rejoice because God will use your suffering for:
    - a) His glory (Acts 7)
    - b) To bless others
    - c) To bless you who suffer
  5. “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.” (1 Peter 4:12-14)
- B. “Be not afraid” (v. 14)
1. “Don’t be troubled.”
  2. “And do not fear their intimidation” NASB (v. 14)
    - a) “Troubled” is the same as John 14
    - b) Illustration- Peter sleeping (Acts 12)
  3. The key is to fear God, and you won’t fear man.
    - a) “Fear not them” (Matthew 10:28)

#### **IV. Be Surrendered** (1 Peter 3:15)

- A. “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts” (v. 15)
1. It’s to “set Christ apart as Lord of your life.”
  2. The only way to be zealous and fearless is if you are surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus.
  3. Is Jesus the Lord of your life?
  4. Only he who can say the Lord is the strength of my life can go on to say, “Of whom shall I be afraid?”

#### **V. Be Ready** (1 Peter 3:15b)

- A. When you are suffering, always be ready to speak up for Jesus
1. If Jesus is your Lord, you will want to tell others about Him
- B. “Answer” (v. 15) is a defense
1. For your hope is in heaven
  2. As Christians, we have hope in Jesus. Why?
    - a) God does exist

- b) The Bible is God's Word
  - c) Jesus is the Savior
  - d) He has saved me (your testimony)
3. How to do it?
- a) "Meekness" or "gentleness"
  - b) "Fear" or "respect"

## **VI. Be Right (1 Peter 3:16)**

### **A. It gives you courage in persecution and opposition**

- 1. When you suffer, it is so important to have a good conscience guided by God's Word
- 2. It's knowing you are right with God
  - a) Illustration- Paul in Acts- "I have lived"

### **B. It gives us peace**

- 1. Illustration- David (Psalm 32)

### **C. It removed fear from our hearts**

- 1. "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear; What can man do to me?" (Psalm 118:6)

## **VII. Be Right (1 Peter 3:17)**

### **A. If you're suffering, have the assurance that you are in His will**

- 1. You can suffer in God's will
  - a) Illustration- "For Christ also suffered once for sins" (v. 18)
  - b) Illustration- Jesus asleep in the boat in the storm
  - c) Illustration- Daniel prayed and was thrown to the lions
- 2. The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you

## **VIII. Conclusion**

### **A. When you suffer for Christ's sake**

- 1. Keep following that which is good
- 2. Remember you are blessed and highly favored
- 3. Surrender to the Lordship of Jesus

4. Be ready to give an answer
5. Keep a clear conscience
6. Rest in God's loving purpose