

**Don't Stop Believing
Make Me A Witness
Pastor Steve**

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 3b-6 NIV

Key Verses of the Day

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:13-16 NIV

Key Thought of Last Week

In the midst of suffering, Christians are called to a life of **BLESSING OTHERS**.

Key Thought of the Day

In the midst of suffering, Christians are called to be a _____ for Christ.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15b NIV

Grab This!

The _____ of our Christian character is directly related to our _____ of Christ's goodness.

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing... 1 Peter 9a NIV

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven..." Matthew 5:1-12 NIV

1. The Witness Of Our _____
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15b NIV

... set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 1 Peter 1:13b NIV

Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 1 Peter 1:21 NIV

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord." 1 Peter 3:15a NIV

"But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 1 Peter 3:14 NIV

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31b-32 NLT

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 NIV

Don't Miss This!

We are to be _____ to give the reason for our hope.

Always be prepared...

Grab This!

We are to share the Gospel _____

...do this with gentleness and respect...

2. The Witness of _____
...keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:16-17 NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2 NIV

Grab This!

When we follow a conscience that has been reformed by the Holy Spirit we avoid living in _____

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 1:17

Why Do We Bless and Witness While We Suffer?

Because Blessing Others and Witnessing for Christ...

1. Reveal a heart that understands _____.

...repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 9:b NIV

Because Blessing Others and Witnessing for Christ...

2. Demonstrate a fully surrendered heart that has experienced _____.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 1 Peter 3:15a NIV

Because Blessing Others and Witnessing for Christ...

3. Display A heart that fully trusts God's _____ for our life.

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. 1 Peter 3:17-18a NIV

The Bottom Line

God can use both the good times and the _____ times in our life to accomplish His will for us.

The Challenge

Are you prepared to give a reason for the hope you have in Christ?