

1 Peter

Chapter 3

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Three

SUMMARY: Verses 1-22

1. Not everyone will live according to the gospel message. However, so powerful is godly living that the way you live can win over the unbeliever.
2. Peter speaks to the specific relationship between husbands and wives. Christian faith is supposed to be an active and foundational part of every marriage.
3. The faith inside you can impact the chaos outside you. Your inward beauty can influence your environment.
4. So powerful is the faith between spouses that when you show dishonor to one another it can affect your prayer life.
5. Peter encourages all believers to live with the attitude of blessing others. You are to never retaliate and show revenge but rather bless others. To the level you bless others determines the blessing you yourself will inherit.
6. Peter gives the necessities for living a good life: watch your mouth, turn from evil, do good, and seek peace with God and others.
7. Peter tells us that God does watch and take into account our behavior. God is actively involved by lending His eye and ear to your life and cause.
8. To live evil sets God's face to be against you.
9. Don't focus on how unbelievers and others treat you. You will be mistreated if you live the Christian faith. But rather than having to apologize for a bad attitude and bad behavior live to defend your good behavior.
10. The goal is not to please others but to please God and live with a clear conscience. And if others do accuse you let their accusations be about your godly behavior not your ungodly behavior.
11. Peter writes that you do better to suffer for doing God's will than to suffer for doing evil and opposing His will.
12. Again, Peter confirms that the way we are to live is in direct relationship to how Jesus lived out His own life.
13. Jesus' actions brought us to God. He lived for God's will. So we, too, should live so that our actions draw others to God's life.
14. Peter distinguishes between two realms of people: the fleshly realm and the spiritual realm. Jesus died in the fleshly realm so we could live with Him in the spiritual realm. He died in the flesh but was raised by the Spirit.
15. Water baptism is one way we identify with death to our fleshly realm and alive to God's spiritual realm. In other words, it is impossible to live God's preferred life apart from the help of the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out to you most?
2. How can living out your Christian faith influence others to be closer to God and enter into a relationship with Jesus?
3. Explain this phrase: The faith inside you should impact the environment around you?
4. How is keeping a handle on your mouth crucial to living a blessed life?
5. Have you ever cursed others but then wanted God to bless you? To you live to bless others, regardless?
6. Why would God's face be set against evil? Isn't this contrary to how many Christians live?
7. Do you find it difficult to deny your fleshly realm of living to choose His spiritual realm of living?

APPLICATION

1. Are there people in your life who've done you wrong that you need to bless? Forgive and do so now.
2. What needs readjusting in order for your FAITH to have more influence over your environment?
3. Is your inward life of faith so powerful it influences those around you who may not believe? How could you make this more of a reality?

