

First: We need HOPE properly focused.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB) "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB) "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"

2 Timothy 1:12b (NASB) "I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day."

Second: We need REASONS individually prepared.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB) "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

No, he's just saying "Have a reason for your hope. It's your hope; it's your reason. It's your reason you individually prepare."

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NKJV) "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Philippian 4:13 (NKJV) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Third: We need hope shared with GENTLENESS of heart.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB) "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Gentleness:

It is the restrained and obedient powers of the personality brought into subjection and submission to God's will by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB) "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Christian Responsibility

Fourth: We need our **CONSCIENCE** clearly maintained.

1 Peter 3:16 (NKJV) "Having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

1 Peter 3:16 (NASB) "Having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."

John 15:20-21 (NKJV) "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me."

Application:

Upon what are your hopes built?

What are the promises of God that you have built your life upon?

What promises have you specifically applied to your life and circumstances?

Are you able to share gently and respectfully with others how God meets your needs through those promises?

Does your walk measure up to the hope you have in you?

Do you live with a clear conscience so that any accusation brought against you has no place to land?

What truth(s) has God revealed to you today?

How will you apply those truths to you life this week?

What adjustments do you need to make to accommodate God's will in your life from your encounter with Him this morning?

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15 (NJKV) "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."