



# Unmistakable

**Week 4 - Devotional Guide Through 1 Peter**

Reflections for the week beginning Monday 1st June

# Unmistakable Witness

## Day 1

### **Bible reading 1 Peter 3:13-14**

*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."*

Pause to reflect:

- What is the Lord drawing to your attention in this verse?
- What might He be wanting you to take hold of?

## Day 1 - A further reflection

“Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened” is a quote from the prophet Isaiah who pleaded with his contemporaries to trust in the sovereign power of the one true God. Those people did not listen to Isaiah; instead they made alliances with enemy nations and adopted the gods of those nations because they mistakenly thought that those actions would bring them safety and security. Their idolatry and sinfulness was motivated by fear.

When we give in to fear, we begin to compromise who God calls us to be in this world in order to avoid disapproval or persecution from others due to our faith. Peter reminds us that Christians are blessed even if they suffer, because God will reward their faithfulness.

# Day 1 - A moment of honesty

Where do you need to be who God has called you to be,  
even if will attract disapproval from others?

Ask God to help you.



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## Day 2

### **Bible reading 1 Peter 3:15-16**

*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. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

Pause to reflect:

- What is the Lord drawing to your attention in these verses?
- What might He be wanting you to take hold of?

## Day 2 - A further reflection

Notice the sequence in this passage?

When you “set apart” Christ as Lord in your heart, you are filled with hope, and your behaviour is changed for good. This can then attract comments or questions from those who don’t walk with Christ. Peter encourages us to be prepared to speak about our faith in Christ when opportunities arise.

Sometimes Christians are afraid of being seen to be pushing their beliefs on others, however if we speak with gentleness and respect as Peter says, then we need not be afraid.

## Day 2 - A moment of honesty

What would you say if someone asks you today  
'why are you so kind'?

Practice what you might say.

Being prepared, actually means...being prepared!



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## Day 3

### **Bible reading 1 Peter 3:17**

*For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

Pause to reflect:

- What is the Lord drawing to your attention in these verses?
- What might He be wanting you to take hold of?

## Day 3 - A further reflection

This simple statement appeals to the practical element of the Christian faith. Since living in a fallen world involves suffering, isn't it better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil?

But there is something else to think about: Suffering for doing good infuses our suffering with a redemptive quality. If we suffer for doing good, we can still experience the peace of mind, satisfaction, and fulfillment that comes from doing good - and this helps us know that our suffering is not wasted or meaningless. None of this can be said about suffering for doing evil.

## Day 3 - A moment of honesty

Pray for yourself or others you know who are suffering for doing God's will.

Be sure to pray for the 245 million Christians who are facing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ in 2020.



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# Day 4

### **Bible reading 1 Peter 4:1-2**

*Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

Pause to reflect:

- What is the Lord drawing to your attention in these verses?
- What might He be wanting you to take hold of?

## Day 4 - A further reflection

Once again Peter holds up the suffering of Christ as a model and inspiration for his readers. The ESV Study Bible notes: "Peter's point is that when believers are willing to suffer, the nerve centre of sin is severed in their lives."

Although believers will never be totally free from sin in this life, when they endure suffering for the sake of Christ they show that their purpose in life is not to live for their own pleasures but according to the will of God and for his glory."

Our preparedness to suffer as a result of our witness for Christ grows our spiritual muscle.

## Day 4 - A moment of honesty

Are there places and ways that you need to be bolder in your witness for Christ, being prepared to endure a little more disapproval or suffering because of your faith?

If you were among the 245 million Christians who face persecution in our world,  
would you still choose to follow Jesus?



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## Day 5

### **Bible reading 1 Peter 4:7-9**

*The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

Pause to reflect:

- What is the Lord drawing to your attention in these verses?
- What might He be wanting you to take hold of?

## Day 5 - A further reflection

This passage describes the lifestyle of the Christ-follower that flows out of his or her knowledge of what is to come in the future. Peter says that “the end of all things is near”, meaning that the story of God is marching on toward its ultimate conclusion. And when the end comes it will be God who reigns.

We are called to have such a firm grasp of this that it changes our worldview and priorities. Christians value and practice self-control, prayer, love, and hospitality because these are “of God” and therefore we know that these things will have eternal value.

## Day 5 - A moment of honesty

Reflecting on yesterday, what things in your day might have had eternal value?

What choices can you make today to include more of those things?

Ask for the Lord's leading.



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# Day 6

### **Bible reading 1 Peter 4:10-11**

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

Pause to reflect:

- What is the Lord drawing to your attention in these verses?
- What might He be wanting you to take hold of?

## Day 6 - A further reflection

We often talk about giving glory to God in our lives, but what does that mean? One of the ways we glorify God is every time we use the gifts we have been given by God for his purposes.

This means using our gifts to speak the words of God, to extend the grace of God, to demonstrate the love of God, to offer the help of God, etc.

Just as there is a variety of gifts, there is a variety of ways those gifts can be used to serve one another both within the church and beyond. It is wonderful to think about all the different ways we can bless others with what God has given to us.

## Day 6 - A moment of honesty

What are some of your strengths and gifts?

How can you use them today to be salt and light  
(and bring glory to God at the same time)?

