

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Always Ready, 1 Peter 3:15

The Lord in Your Heart

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV) “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: ...”

- As a Christian, you have submitted yourself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- You have accepted Jesus into your heart
- You now live a holy or sanctified life because of Jesus
- Jesus is your Savior and your Lord
- The honor you have for Jesus is in your heart
- What you really believe and willing to do are done from the heart
- What you believe, you are living

Be Ready Always

1 Peter 3:15 “... and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you ...”

- We as Christians are to *be ready always* with an answer for the hope that’s in us
- Being *ready always* suggests advance preparation
- Being ready means study, meditation, prayer, fasting, etc.
- Being ready is a matter of:
 - Study/meditation **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**
 - Prayer
 - Time in God’s presence (Let the Holy Spirit teach and tutor you as you study the Word) **1 John 2:27 (KJV) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**
 - Being yourself (you’re not better than others; only forgiven)
 - Care (genuine love and care for people)
 - Listening (being willing to listen and understand what others are saying)
- Unfortunately, many believers don’t know what they believe
- You are to prepare to have discussions with others about your Christian faith

Be Ready to Answer

1 Peter 3:15 “... and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you ...”

- The word *answer* in Greek is (apologia) which means to explain, respond, answer back, or defend
- It is where we derive the English word “apologetic”
 - **Apologetics defined is the study of defenses and explanations of the Christian Faith**

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- You are to have a *ready answer* for everyone that asks
- You're to have answer for everyone that asks you
- The work ask here means to crave, hunger or demand something
- Those that are asking are going to come from all walks of life, and every aspect of your life

- Note the word "asketh", meaning continuing to ask
- ***Being ready to give an answer to every man that asks is not an intrusion of your faith, but an opportunity and an honor to speak on behalf of Jesus Christ***
- Your Christianity should not only be *personal*, it must be *public* as well
- People are watching your Christian life and your life will raise questions because our lives are often *visibly different*
- God wants us to be ready always with answers about the hope that lies in us

Be Ready with Your Answer

1 Peter 3:15 "... and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you ..."

- The unbeliever, unchurched person will ask you: Why are you different? Why do you seem to handle problems better than others? You are able to work with people that others say are difficult to work with, why is that?
- Don't ignore them, they *really* want to know
- The world is asking, "What is *your* hope?"
- Your *answer* is: Jesus is my hope, Jesus is the Lord of my life, Jesus is holy and righteous
- A more detailed answer is found in throughout 1 Peter that explains what Jesus has *done* to give us this hope
 1. ***Jesus came*** - 1 Peter 1:20-21 (KJV) 20 *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*
 2. ***Jesus died*** - 1 Peter 2:24 (KJV) 24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*
 3. ***Jesus rose*** - 1 Peter 1:3 (KJV) 3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
 4. ***Jesus reigns*** - 1 Peter 3:22 (KJV) 22 *Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*

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5. **Jesus returns** - 1 Peter 1:13 (KJV) 13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*
 6. **We will always be with God** - 1 Peter 3:18 (KJV) 18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*
 7. **Jesus is working all things for our good** - 1 Peter 1:7 (KJV) 7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- We must be able to give those that ask a logical answer of the hope that is in us
 - Jesus is the hope that is in us as believers
 - That hope becomes the focus of believers in Jesus Christ
 - The hope that is in you is the visible evidence that you possess something different than other people
 - Your words may cause an inquirer or hostile accuser to come to believe in Jesus Christ

Kind and Gentle Answers

“... with meekness and fear:”

- We are to exercise care as we give our answers about the hope we have in Jesus
- We are to answer unbelievers with a spirit of *meekness* and *fear*
- Speaking with a spirit of meekness is to speak with humility, softness, love, and brokenness
- Meekness is also strength under control
- Speaking with fear is reverential fear of God
- When we speak with fear, our speech expresses our devotion and loyalty to God, commitment to the truth of His Word, and respect for the person listening
- We speak with a respect for man and reverence for God