

**October 12, 2025**

**1 Peter 3:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 12:9-21

Philippians 2:1-11

Psalms 34

John 13:34-35

1 Thessalonians 4:9

“Being in Christ means that the power of his resurrection is now the power that animates our living. In Christ, we are empowered for a brand-new way of living. The life that now animates us, that is, ignites new thoughts, desires, and actions, is not ours; it's Christ's!”

- Paul Tripp



## Grace and Godly Living

### 1 Peter 3:8-12

**BIG IDEA:** Because of the grace of Jesus Christ for His Church, all believers in Him have the power to live Godly lives as strangers in this world.

## OUTLINE

### 1. Gospel Virtues (3:8)

### 2. Gospel Blessing (3:9-12)

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. How does God’s grace help us live out this passage? What parts of the gospel message empower you to live differently from our world?
2. Which of the five virtues listed in verse 8 stands out to you? How would you describe each virtue? Which of these comes easier to you? With which of these do you struggle?
3. What does it mean to bless instead of curse in verse 9?
4. How do you explain in verse 12 that “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous” with the suffering of the Christians to whom Peter wrote?
5. How are we considered righteous (v.12) when we still sin?

“But Peter sees humility as deeper than the leveling of pride. He finds it in the free humiliation of his Lord, not only in taking the towel and basin, but in taking the cross. This is the lowliness that calls us to humble service.”

- Edmund Clowney

“Grace is a thunderous, expansive, powerful, and life-altering word. Other than the word God, there is no more important word that the human mind could consider and the mouth could speak. It is the most transformational word in the Bible that you hold dear.”

- Paul Tripp

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Whatever befalls us, if we are looking to Christ as Lord, we cannot finally be harmed. The good life is the hard life of trusting Christ. In the gospel, we have been promised an unfathomable inheritance, ours freely for the taking, all because of the grace of God. This is “the hope that is in [us]” (v. 15), through which we can quietly endure all things. We await an eternal glory that will make the hardships of this life, though genuinely painful, ultimately have the significance of a scratch on the penny of a millionaire (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16–18).

-ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible

***Praise to Jesus*** – Praise God that whatever befalls us, as we look to Christ as Lord, at the end of time we will not be harmed; in fact, we will be rewarded. Because of Christ in us, we can endure the suffering and persecution of the moment. Praise God who caused us to be born again to a living hope, and He has granted us the new birth to receive the eternal inheritance. Praise Him who called us out of the darkness of the world or sin to God’s light or holiness. Praise Him because we have been delivered from the former passions of our flesh. As a result, we are now God’s obedient, holy children. Praise God for the call from Peter to live in a way that gives evidence of Christ!

***Repentance through Jesus*** – Confess and repent for divisive words or actions at home or within the church family. Acknowledge hard-heartedness and arrogance. Repent for repaying evil with evil instead of good, and for refusing to seek peace and actively pursue it.

***Consecration for Jesus*** –Let us have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Let us repay evil with blessing as we seek to love life and see good days. We will refuse to speak evil or deceit, we will refuse evil and do good, and we will seek and pursue peace, because the eyes of the Lord are on us and He hears our prayers!

## FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

These questions are written to aid parents in leading family devotions with their children.

1. How would you explain each of the gospel virtues listed in verse 8? (Talk with your children about how some of the virtues are related, such as “unity of mind” and “humble mind” or “sympathy” and “tender heart”. This may help them understand what each virtue is.)
2. Which of these virtues do you need to grow in? Take time as you are discussing this to pray to God for this growth.
3. What does it mean to bless someone and not curse them? (It means not saying mean things to those who say mean things to us.)
4. Where do we get the power to live out these virtues? (This comes from the Holy Spirit and not us. Look up Galatians 3:3. This is very important for your children to understand, since we often think that the grace of Christ is only needed to become a Christian. We need the grace of Christ every moment of every day.)
5. Read Matthew 5:13-16 and talk about how we are salt and light to our world when we live Godly lives as described in this week’s passage by the power of the Spirit.

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 12:9-21

Galatians 3:3

## FOR STUDENTS

Scriptures for further study:

Genesis 1:27

Galatians 3:28

Ephesians 5:22-33

Colossians 3:18-19

1. In verse 8, Peter gives five gospel virtues that should characterize Christians: unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. How would you define each of these in your own words? Which of them comes most naturally to you, and which do you find the most challenging? Why?
2. What does it look like to bless someone who has hurt or insulted you? Why is that kind of response countercultural? What motivation does Peter give for living this way?
3. Peter says in verse 9 that “to this you were called.” How does that language help you understand that blessing others is not optional, but part of the Christian life? Where in your life right now might God be calling you to live this out?
4. According to this passage, what kind of life does God bless? What are the specific actions that lead to “seeing good days” according to these verses? What do you think it means to “seek peace and pursue it” in your relationships?
5. Peter says, “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,” and “his ears are open to their prayer.” But how can any of us be called righteous when we still sin? How does being united with Christ change the way God sees us? If Christ’s perfect righteousness is now ours by grace, how does that encourage you when you struggle to live a godly life?

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. In verse 8, Peter provides some general instructions on relating to others, including the importance of having unity of spirit, love for others in the church, compassion, and a humble attitude.

Question: How do these things contribute to the well-being of the church?

2. More specifically, Peter gives instructions about dealing with those who may be hostile. In doing so, we must follow the teaching and supreme example of Jesus, who did not retaliate against his enemies but showed kindness and forgiveness, which led to the blessing and salvation of sinners. Jesus not only showed us how to handle our enemies, but Peter also tells us not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult and instead responding with blessing, is something to which “you were called” (v.9).

Question: How does it strike you that treating our enemies this way is not just something optional to the Christian life, but rather something that is expected and commanded?

3. Peter also underscores for us that we will stand to gain much blessing from the Lord when we respond to our enemies with grace. Verse 12 (which is a quote from Psalm 34) indicates that the Lord not only sees our deeds, but he looks after us for our good; he recognizes but also actively meets our needs.

Question: How should it motivate us to know that God approves of our righteous deeds and offers blessing to us in return?

4. Not only have we inherited a future blessing from the Lord (recall 1:4), but we also stand to gain present blessings as well. Throughout the book of 1 Peter, we are told about the blessing of joy, fatherly love (and discipline), husbands being won over, God’s approval, a spirit of glory resting upon us, God caring for our needs, God restoring, establishing, and strengthening us, etc.!

Discuss: Though Peter also talks a lot about suffering as Christians, this is far outweighed by the blessings that are ours in Christ. Talk about some of the aforementioned blessings and any others that may come to mind.

# Living Hope: How God's Glorious Grace in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us by the Spirit to Live with Gospel Grit in a Foreign Land.



*Daniel in the Lion's Den by Briton Riviere, 1872*

**About the Artist:** Briton Rivière, a British painter known for his animal paintings, particularly those featuring dogs and wild animals with deep emotion and dramatic flair, came from an artistic family. His father, William Rivière, was a drawing master and art teacher. Rivière initially studied at the University of Oxford, drawn to literary and historical themes, but later developed a fascination with animals and became renowned for his ability to imbue them with emotional depth and narrative presence.

## About the Artwork

"Daniel in the Lion's Den" (1872) depicts the biblical story with lifelike lions, a popular and symbolic theme in Victorian England. It explores faith under trial, divine protection, and moral strength against tyranny, themes that resonated with Victorian audiences during a time when Christian values and moral courage were emphasized.

In Riviere's painting, Daniel's calm, unarmed demeanor symbolizes absolute trust in God. His gaze suggests prayer, hope, or spiritual communion, not fear. He represents the righteous man steady in the face of evil. The lions, though fierce, are subdued, a miracle of restraint. Riviere doesn't show angels or supernatural intervention; the restraint is invisible, spiritual. Some lions are relaxed, others alert, suggesting the tension between nature and divine command. Each lion has a distinct personality, reflecting the mystery of creation. The focused light on Daniel recalls God's presence in darkness. The murky den symbolizes the unknown, death, or temptation, yet Daniel remains untouched. Unlike dramatic biblical scenes, there's no movement or violence. The silence emphasizes Daniel's victory through trust, countering 19th-century action-heavy storytelling with a meditation on spiritual endurance.

## 1 Peter and Daniel in the Lion's Den

This painting, based on a biblical scene, helps us understand the overall theme of the New Testament letter. 1 Peter teaches Christians that as God's elect, they are called to live holy lives of faithful witness, enduring suffering with hope rooted in God's grace, while embracing their Gospel identity as a holy, royal priesthood in a hostile world. Like Daniel in the Old Testament, we are strangers in a distant place. Jesus told his disciples and us in the Gospel of John that we are "not of this world." Hebrews reminds the church that "this world is not their permanent home." Even within 1 Peter, God's people are called "sojourners and exiles."

Like Daniel, the darkness of this broken, sinful, and fallen world is always present. While we may never face a physical lion, Peter's first letter tells us that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, and the spiritual forces of evil are ever present. Yet, like Daniel, we must face the opposition with a Gospel poise, knowing that which is unseen is more powerful than what is seen and against us. Peter uses the language of "standing firm" in God's grace as we encounter all forms of darkness.

Church, may we see the beauty of 1 Peter in its overall message: God's glorious grace leading us to Gospel grit as sojourners in a dark world. But may we not just perceive its beauty but also embrace God's unique calling in these words: stand firm!