

4Ws live in hope

PROCLAIM HOPE

MAY 16, 2021

WORSHIP

In Control, Lord I Lift
Your Name on High,
I Lift My Hands

WELCOME

What was the most surprising proclamation on social media or elsewhere that you've witnessed recently?

WORD

READ IT!

1 PETER 2:11-17

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

(READ 1 PETER 2:4-25
FOR FULL CONTEXT)

PARAPHRASE IT!

Restate the verses in your own words.

TALK ABOUT IT!

- What did you like about this passage?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about following Jesus?
- How is the verse relevant in our present time and situation?

POINT IT OUT!

Living hope is not just wishful thinking. One aspect of it is its effect on our transformation. Having this hope transforms us to be set apart for God.

A set-apart person proclaims something. The things we post or share on our social media: funny videos, a cat video, or a recipe we would like to try—these reflect things that we are proclaiming. When life throws us curve balls, and we don't know what's happening, knowing that God is in control, and has our future secure makes a difference. Knowing that should move us to proclaim this hope that we have.

To proclaim hope we have to understand:

1. WHO YOU ARE

In **1 Peter 2:4-8** we are referred to as **living stones** and a **royal priesthood**. Peter was referring to Jesus as the Living Cornerstone who was rejected by men, but is precious in God's eyes (**Isaiah 28:16**). A cornerstone is the first stone laid in building construction and serves as its sturdy foundation. Jesus is our chief cornerstone. He is our foundation and we are all living stones that go about our roles as a royal priesthood. In olden times people had to go to a priest to be interceded for, but as living stones we now have direct access to God and can also intercede for others!

The second part of **1 Peter 2:6** says "**and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.**" Today many things are just too good to be true which disappoint us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and we did nothing to deserve it. That sounds too good to be true also, but God delivers on His promise! Jesus is the chief cornerstone to those who believe. But for those who don't believe, He is a stumbling block because these people don't want to align their lives to the intended original design. God desires for all to come to know him (**John 3:16**), but the fact is not everyone will say yes to God. If you don't believe in Him, you will always be disappointed.

2. WHY YOU ARE

1 Peter 2:9 starts with "**But you are a chosen people...**". People are looking to belong. God makes us different. God sets us apart so we have something in common with all the believers around the world of all races and cultures; even with those who have gone ahead of us to our Heavenly home. We as one body can together proclaim Christ's light. The word "**proclaim**" in Greek translates to "**exaggello**", which means "to announce something". We proclaim Christ's light and excellencies to those around us. God does not need our worship, but when we worship Him and see Him, we experience what we are meant



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and made to be. Proclaiming God is not God being selfish, but out of love for Him, we proclaim His excellencies.

There are times we forget how it was like when God rescued us from darkness. Maybe there is sin in us or a passion that distracts us from God's light. The good news is that there is a way to get out of that darkness. Go to God.

3. HOW YOU LIVE

The third way of being able to proclaim God is by abstaining. Addictions, losing our temper, and our fleshly lust distract us and darken our hearts. Instead of giving in to these distractions, we are commanded in **1 Peter 1:15-16** to be holy and to live out our holiness. When we live in holiness, we live and glorify God. How can we proclaim God by the way we live? 1.) With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are able to say "no" to fleshly lust. 2.) We replace fleshly lust with a passion for the Lord. We resist temptation because we love the Lord. Sometimes, when we behave with such excellence it will result to us being slandered (**1 Peter 2:12**), but as these people continue to observe us they may be changed themselves.

We also proclaim God by submitting to our authorities: our parents, our teachers, the government, etc. **1 Peter 2:13-14** says, **"¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵ For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people."** The Bible says that we are to submit to our authorities, even to those who are unreasonable, for the Lord's sake, because by submitting we are doing what is right. However, if our authority wants us to commit a sinful act, we can ask God for wisdom how we can respectfully refuse to do so, because we want to honor the Lord. If we suffer by doing what is good and right for God's sake, God promises that this finds favor with Him (**1 Peter 2:20**) and we can trust Him to take care of us.

4. WHAT HE DID

Jesus suffered unjustly, though we were the ones who were supposed to suffer because of the wrong things we have done. Because Jesus left us an example, we too can suffer for the Lord's sake. When we find ourselves in a tough situation, we do not revile, but we keep doing what is right, and entrust ourselves to Him who judges righteously (**1 Peter 2:22-23**).

Jesus suffered unjustly when he bore our sins (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). **1 Peter 2:24** says **"by His wounds, you we were healed."** We used to be alive in sin and dead in righteousness. But when Christ rescued us by dying in our place, He made us dead to sin and alive in righteousness. This means that though we are still tempted to sin because of our old sinful nature, we no longer turn to the destructive pleasures of sin. We needed healing because, like sheep, we kept running away from God. But now, as genuine believers we have returned to the Shepherd who watches over us and provides us what we need. Our inheritance is waiting for us and is protected by Jesus Christ, the Guardian of our souls. Because of Christ's finished work of redemption, we have a higher reason for saying "no" to sinful and distracting passions. Because of Jesus, we are able to say "yes" to the greatest passion of proclaiming Him to those around us.

If that does not yet resonate with you, come to God, He will never disappoint you.

WORKS

APPLY IT!

Based on this lesson on PROCLAIM HOPE, write down your action point to apply what you learned. Make it your "I will..." statement and follow the S.M.A.R.T. guideline to come up with a do-able action point.

- Simple
- Measurable
- Appropriate
- Realistic
- Time-bound

"I will _____

SHARE IT!

Who will you share these truths to this week?

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray to see opportunities to proclaim God this week. As a royal priesthood, find ways to be able to pray for those around you and witness by living a set-apart life. Share Christ's transforming hope to as many as you can this week

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, A holy nation, a people For god's own possession, so that you may proclaim The excellencies of Him Who has called you out Of darkness into his Marvelous light;

1 Peter 2:9

