

Responding to Persecution

1 Peter 3:13–22

When you suffer persecution for your faith

1. See it as a blessing (13-14a)

Acts 5:40-42; Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:12

2. Suppress your fears (14b)

3. Share a defense (15)

The greek word for "defense" is apologia - where we get the word "apologetics," which is a study of defending the faith.

4. Stay focused on Jesus (16-22)

Before the Throne of God above:

When Satan tempts me to despair, And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there, Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied, To look on Him and pardon me.

Jesus preaching to the Spirits?

The best explanation I have reached of this passage is that Jesus preached through Noah to the unbelievers of Noah's day. The sermon being preached was for the people to repent and be saved.

"Baptism now saves you"?

We could paraphrase, 'Baptism now saves you—not the outward physical ceremony of baptism but the inward spiritual reality which baptism represents.' Thus Peter guards against any 'magical' view of baptism which would attribute saving power to the physical ceremony itself. (Wayne Grudem)