

Called To Inherit A Blessing

I Peter 3:8-12 & Psalm 34

Introduction: Peter is concerned over the persecuted Church in his first Letter. In his letter he mentions the concept of a suffering church a least twelve times. In contrast Paul only uses the word "suffer" a total of seven times. Peter, in fortifying the early Church against persecution he quotes Psalms 34 using King David as an example of overcoming trials and tribulation.

SIX CONDITIONS...I Peter 3:8-12

To obtaining blessings in our lives we must...

I. **DECIDE:** WE MUST DECIDE TO LOVE LIFE [I Peter 3:10]

"...He who would love life."

- An attitude of faith sees the best in every situation.
- An attitude of faith chooses the Lord's blessing and destiny.

II. **DOMINATE:** WE MUST CONTROL OUR TONGUES [I Peter 3:10b]

"...refrain his tongue."

- Be careful with the words you say.
- Be conscious of the way you say things.

III. **DEPART:** WE MUST DECIDE DAILY TO RESIST EVIL [I Peter 3:11]

"...turn away from evil."

- We live in a fallen world, but we need not fall into it!
- We will turn away from evil only when we despise evil.
- We will change only when we mature in our relationship with God.

IV. **DO:** WE MUST DECIDE DAILY TO DO RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS [I Peter 3:11]

"and do good."

- Seek for opportunities to do good.
- Seek to please others and not yourself.

VI. **DEVELOP:** WE MUST DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST [I Peter 3:12].

"For the eyes of the Lord..."

- Focused upon His people. "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous"
- Faith in the Lord. "And His ears are open to their prayers"
- Fear of the Lord. "But the face of the Lord is against"