



Are You A Blessing?

The stargazer lily emits a beautiful odor that can fill a room with a sweet fragrance. Peter summarizes his teaching on 'living in the world' by telling us how we are to be a blessing—a sweet aroma—to others.

A. Be A Blessing to Others 3:8-12

Here are six things that bless others...

1. Be of one mind This is **unity of disposition** not necessarily opinion. We are to have a loving attitude even though we may disagree about some things.
2. Have compassion for one another We are to be **sympathetic** with others—feeling what they feel. Suffer with them or be in joy with them.
3. Love as brothers This is akin to **family love**—as a brother or sister would love a brother or sister.
4. Be tenderhearted From the heart—**authentic sensitivity** to the feelings of others. Not discounting a persons feelings.
5. Be courteous Literally 'humble minded' or 'friendly of mind.' Friendly or courteous in our attitude.
6. Be a blessing 3:9-12 **When I don't feel like being a blessing!** Even when evil things are done or said, God's will is that we are a blessing—continue to bless others.

B. Sharing the Blessing with Others 3:13-16

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt 5:10

Do not be troubled when you are misunderstood or even persecuted for doing good. 3:13-14

Instead—share your faith with others...

1. Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts 3:15 The first step in being a witness for Christ is to be rightly related to Him.
 - a. **The Lordship of Christ** Peter is admonishing his readers to make Jesus the **LORD of their lives**. The word 'sanctify' means to set apart—we are to set Jesus apart in our hearts by giving Him complete control—Lordship over our lives.
2. Always be ready to share your faith 3:15 As Peter puts it—we need to know the reason why we believe—have hope and be able to share that with others—at any time.
3. Share your faith with...
 - a. **Meekness** Without arrogance. This is the ability to share our faith in a way that other people do not discount our message because of our rotten character.
 - b. **Fear** We need to use discernment and caution (the meaning of fear here) when sharing with others. We need to match the message with the soil. *See Matt 13:1-23*
 - c. **A good conscience** :16 A Good conscience and good conduct are partners in righteousness.

1 Peter 3:8-17 (NKJV)

:8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;

:9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

:10 For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.

:11 LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

:12 FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

:13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "AND DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR THREATS, NOR BE TROUBLED."

:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

:16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

:17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. *

***Verse 17:** This in the Gk 'optative' mood which means that it is NOT God's usual will that we suffer for doing good—but when it is—that is better than suffering for doing wrong.