

**W@W1Pet21**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **RISING OR FALLING**

**1 Peter 2:7-8** *Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

Jesus is very precious to all those who trust Him for their salvation, and are growing in relationship with Him. However, some people treat Jesus like a 'nice optional extra' or an interesting example of a good life; and others consider Him to be an irritant, obstruction or irrelevance in their lives. But the truth is: Father God has made Jesus to be central to everything for everybody. That is wonderful for all those who love Him as the Master of their lives; but for those who refuse to obey Him (however nicely they may speak about Him or ignore Him), He becomes an obstacle over which they will fall.

That may not be always evident in this life where often it seems that the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer. But life does not end in the grave. [John 5:28-29](#) says, "... for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." The true rise or fall of each person is not marked until Jesus the judge gives His verdict. The key question will be, "Did you obey the message of the gospel of Jesus?" (cf [www.crosscheck.org.uk](http://www.crosscheck.org.uk))

Do not be surprised that some of your closest colleagues and dearest friends reject Jesus. But that does not stop you wanting them to find Jesus, praying for them, explaining the gospel to them and testifying how much Jesus has already done for you. Part of the purpose of a Christian group at work is to pray for your colleagues and senior management - that they may receive God's blessing, and see how special Jesus is (cf [1 Tim 2:1-8](#)); even if they get angry because you represent Jesus.

**Prayer:** *Wonderful Saviour, Jesus. Thank you for being so precious to me. I pray for all my family, friends and colleagues who have not realised the seriousness of failing to welcome You into their lives. Please bless them and show Your kindness to them; and help them to see you are the One who has died for them as well. Also help me to work with You in showing Your love and explaining Your gospel. For Your glory's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at

<http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet21 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet22**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **CORPORATE IDENTITY**

**1 Peter 2:9** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Every business knows the importance of 'corporate identity'. Each employee and team member must understand that they are part of something which is much bigger than themselves: their role in the organisation is to contribute to the success of company objectives. God has a 'family business'. The British might call it "God and Sons", and every believer is included. The objective is that God shall be seen, praised and worshipped for His wonderful character; and also because He has called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of His presence.

We are not Jesus-believers by chance. We have been specially chosen, and called together to work with Him and for Him. Every believer has the privilege of direct access to God through Jesus Christ, and so we are all priests - not to offer sacrifices for sins because Jesus has already done that, once and for all (cf [Heb 10:12](#)) - but to offer praise and prayer. We are so special to God because we have been made holy by the blood of Christ (cf [Heb 13:12](#)), through which we are also purchased by our new Master (cf [Acts 20:28](#)).

So, how do we show that we value the great privilege of belonging to Christ? This verse says that we are called to be a people of praise. Our lifestyle and conversations (at work, as well as home and church) should demonstrate that we serve the Lord and invite others to worship Him too. That might be easy in church, but God is with us everywhere. In some ways, our worship at work may be a closer reflection of our love for Christ when we have less support from other believers. But wherever you do find other Christians at work, please join them in prayer and Bible study. Perhaps Word@Work might be the starting point for a break-time discussion, followed by prayer and then a work-style that glorifies the Lord.

**Prayer:** *Holy Father. Thank You for choosing me to be a part of your family business. I have so many privileges, but confess the times when I have not represented Your interests, nor lived up to your image in me. Please help me to be a good representative for heaven on earth, with my work colleagues and in my home. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet22 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**MERCY'S DOOR TO FELLOWSHIP**

**1 Peter 2:10** *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

Loneliness has an ugly feel about it. It is different to being 'alone', which means that nobody else is there (except God); because you can be lonely in a crowd. But the sense of isolation, knowing that nobody cares, smells of rejection and the desolation that can be so disturbing. For scattered refugees, as some of Peter's Christian readers were, it is excellent news that God had not abandoned them to an uncertain fate. Rather they had been formed into a growing network of people who were God's very own 'business partners' in the gospel.

The route into God's favour has nothing to do with people being good, saying prayers, giving offerings or helping the poor (although true Christians will want to do all of these). The access point of the Kingdom of God is the mercy He offers to sinners who cannot help themselves. And that mercy flows from the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, whereby all who want to receive mercy, can have their sins fully and completely forgiven (see [www.crosscheck.org.uk](http://www.crosscheck.org.uk)).

It is one thing to be offered mercy, and another to receive it. We receive mercy from God when we come in repentance and accept that Jesus was punished for the sins we have done. As we confess our sins, God pours out his forgiveness (cf [1 John 1:9](#)). It is sin that separates us from God and others, and receiving mercy brings us into the commonwealth of His kingdom: we are no longer alienated, but brought close to God and many other Christians (even though we cannot see them - like the thousands who are reading Word@Work today!). So, if you know about His mercy, you need to reach out to Him and receive it. You need never be lonely again.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord. How great is Your mercy! I do not deserve it and cannot earn it. Nor can I every repay you for it. I know that you only want me to receive Your mercy, repenting of my sin - so that I can be in right relationship with You, and find my place in Your kingdom. Thank You for the world-wide network of those who belong to You, and I pray today for the thousands of people who are also reading Word@Work. Please bless and strengthen them in their work, to Your praise and glory. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at

<http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet23 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**CULTURAL IDENTITY**

**1 Peter 2:11-12** *Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

It is not wrong to enjoy a cultural identity. With the shrinkage of our world into a global village, aided by rapid travel, communications, migration and the growth of multinational business organisations, we humanly long to retreat into something special that reminds us of home and our 'roots'. Food, dress, language, dialect and accent all help to shape our understanding of where we have come from. But the Christian should be much more concerned about the culture of heaven - where we are going to. We are to live as foreigners in this sinful world, because our true home is with our Heavenly Father. It is His values which should shape our lives as we await Jesus' return.

No earthbound passion or sinful desire will have any place where Jesus reigns. So, Christians are to consider their sinful desires as foreign to them, and reject them (cf [Rom 6:11-14](#)). They are to say 'No' to everything that is not of God, and become self-controlled (cf [Titus 2:11-14](#)) as they wait for Jesus to come. But right now, such self-control is a real battle, because it denies authority to our sinful nature, which is so easily enflamed by watching the worldliness around us.

This inner war may be intensified where our colleagues or even family have very different values. They may describe our disciplined life as pompous or prudish, and may resent the contrast between our lives and theirs. The internal battle for holiness will even intensify with abuse, ridicule or worse. But do not look for your comfort today, think ahead to the day when everybody, including your detractors at work, will bow to Jesus and admit that your holy lifestyle was right after all. By watching you, some will have been convicted of their need to submit to Jesus; and through your witness, they will receive Christ's welcome too.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father. Please forgive me when I assume that this world, and where I have come from, should shape my future. Help me to resist the daily temptations to fall back into worldly ways, and to be strong to say 'No' to wrong desires, even if my closet friends cannot understand why. May my new life of obedience and humility prove to be an effective witness to Your grace and power - so that others may also find peace with God, before Jesus Christ returns. For his Name's sake. Amen.*

---

Share **Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet24 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet25**

**Word@Work from BeaconLight**

**SANCTIFIED SUBMISSION**

**1 Peter 2:13-14** *Submit yourselves, for the Lord's sake, to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

How do you know if you are submitting to God? We can fool ourselves into holy thinking without practicing holy living. 'Submission' does not find many supporters among mobile and successful adults. But it is God's way to teach us that we are not God, we do not know everything and we are not almighty. If married couples will not submit to each other, there is war at home. If students do not submit to teachers, there is anarchy in the campus; and if people refuse to submit to their community leaders and national governments, there is civil war.

God's instruction to submit to those who are over us at work or in the community (who we can see), is also a test of how we submit to God (who is invisible). Although leaders are chosen by humans, that appointment has God's authority. It is no defence to say that we have not respected human authority because it is sinful. It is God who has chosen some sinners to be leaders - and other sinners to be subject to them. It may be hard if the leaders ignore God's instructions, in the same way it is difficult when employers are harsh; but our failure to submit to their authority betrays our proud lack of respect for God who allowed their appointment.

This will not always be fair, and we may suffer hardship or even cruelty. But our appeal needs to be to God, and not to rise up against our boss or president. Many issues of human rights may be considered, along with the responsibility to defend the oppressed; but we must not take the law into our own hands if God has not placed it there. We do have a right to entreat a leader or employer respectfully, but not to rebel. But we have also been given the privileged right to pray to God who is over all. Jesus said, "*And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?*" ([Luke 18:7](#)). He can be trusted to do what is right (cf [Gen 18:25](#)).

**Prayer:** *Sovereign Lord. Although earthly authority will fall short of Your standards, thank you for the structures of our society, and for not abandoning us to the hellish chaos of everybody's selfishness. Help me to honour those you have allowed to be over me, to obey them as best I can, and to pray for them that they will accept Your help to fulfil their responsibilities. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet25 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

#### **ENDING THE ARGUMENT**

**1 Peter 2:15** *For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Ridicule and slander are cheap methods of discrediting an opponent. Even a little whisper of 'concern' can soon fan into a flame that burns a hole in the community's confidence. Of course, these are ungodly tactics used by unholy people and should never be seen in Christ's church. But they are the frequently-used tools of those who want to dishonour Christians, the church, and our Lord Jesus Christ. That is what the jeering mob did with Jesus; and it is still easy to raise a rabble against the righteous.

It is said that, more Christians are being persecuted for their faith now than at any previous time in history. Certainly there are more Christians now throughout the world, and with better communications, it is easier to spread malicious ideas. But despite human rights legislation in many countries, few cases of slander against believers are settled in the law courts; and it is rarely possible to have a fair public debate. This verse says that the best defence is the consistency of a good life. That kind of evidence keeps burning in the faces of the accusers, whose words are shown to be empty and without foundation.

Yet, doing what is good, when others are behaving wickedly towards you, is not a natural human reaction (naturally we seek revenge). But Peter says ([1 Peter 2:23](#)) that Jesus has given us the right example: "*When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*" And so Jesus was not deflected from His mission by the taunts of false accusers. Neither should we, in the face of Satan's lies and their human distributors (cf [Rev 12:10-11](#)). Instead we should do good, commit ourselves to God's protection, and pray for our persecutors (cf [Matthew 5:44](#)).

**Prayer:** *Father God. I am grateful that You see everybody who comes against Your people with bad words or unkind actions. Give grace to me and all those who are persecuted because they honour you; that we may curb our tongues and live good lives of service as we trust in You. Please sustain all those Christians, throughout the world, who are enduring the worst hardships for Your sake; and may their persecutors see their faith expressed in good lives, and come to praise You for themselves. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet26 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet27**

**Word@Work from BeaconLight**

**LIBERTY WITHOUT LICENCE**

**1 Peter 2:16** *Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Persecuted, oppressed, abused or alienated people tend to be ruled by anxiety. They may spend their lives watching over their shoulder for the next insult or attack. Although this is a natural reaction, Peter now urges such Christians to cast off the shackles of fear; and live by faith in the God who has called them (who will only allow what is in His will). Instead of being bound by the terror of possible harm or even death, they are to live as free people who have been released from such slavery (cf [Heb 2:14-15](#)).

But even those who delight in their freedom as children of God (cf [Gal 5:1](#)) are not immune to temptation. Instead of covering, they may abuse their privilege and do what is wrong while justifying their evil desires as being spiritual. The early church saw many such problems, from civil disorder to immorality and syncretism with either Judaism or paganism. Such problems still exist within churches worldwide. The only corrective is obedience to the Word of God. Service is the great antidote to self-centredness.

'Licentiousness' is an old-fashioned English word, but it sums up the problem. A licentious person has no respect for God's commands or the values of His Kingdom; so there is no moral restraint or self-discipline - which often results in sexual immorality and other vices. True liberty in Christ is not a licence to do what you like; it is freedom to serve Him without fear of what man might say or do (cf [Heb 13:6](#)). So, at work and in your community there are two opposite temptations that stem from persecution; either to cower in fear, or to abuse Christ's freedom. The remedy for both is choosing to serve with a glad and willing heart.

**Prayer:** *Gracious God. Thank you for the liberty that I have in Christ. Help me to be strengthened by Your love even when others reject me. And give me the courage to reject fear so that I may serve those who despise You, for Christ's sake. Also keep me from the evil of using confident faith as a mask for wicked behaviour. May I know the self-control that Your Spirit brings to all who want to obey you with a glad heart. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at

<http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet27 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

#### **SPIRITUAL SUMMARY**

**1 Peter 2:17** *Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the king. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

This packed sentence summarises Peter's instructions to Christians who are living in an anti-Christian environment. And that is where most of us are called to live, work, socialise, study, raise our families and eventually die. We know that this life is not the sum of our existence, to be clung to and preserved at all costs; it is the preparation for eternity. [1 Peter 1:13](#) explains the Christian's personal motivation (*Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed*): today's verse tells us how to make that work in practice.

Respecting others, who are made in the image of God, honours our Creator - even if they do not love Him. We are to honour them for His sake. What is the 'proper' way to respect them? Well, that will depend on our culture - providing that we do not disobey the Lord in what we do. Loving other believers has to start with recognising that they are only our brothers because God has made them His children, by grace ... just as we too came into His family (see [www.crosscheck.org.uk](http://www.crosscheck.org.uk)). So we do not love other believers because they are lovely, but because Christ has died for their un-loveliness ... just as He has for ours.

To 'fear' God does not mean that we are too frightened to come to him. It means that we honour him because of His awesomeness, and as grateful people, we do not want to displease Him. That is why we should give full respect to business bosses, community leaders and national office-holders including the head of state - because God has commanded us to obey them (cf [1 Peter 2:13-14](#), [Rom 13:1-7](#)): and that includes obeying the taxation rules too. All this is practical Christianity in the workplace. It will be noticed, and we should pray that the glory will go to our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** *Sovereign and Creator God. I want to live for you. Please forgive me when I fall into the ways of the world, and live as though I am not expecting Jesus to return. Help me to give proper honour to all those I meet today, so that they may know that I serve a living Saviour. Keep me clean from the dishonesty that would foul my witness; and give me a refreshed awesome respect for You, as I work and worship. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet28 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet29**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **TOUGH WORK**

**1 Peter 2:18** *Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Slavery has been abolished in many parts of the world ... officially. But hard and harsh employments persist, sometimes in the most surprising places. The smiling management face may hide a mean heart, or years of traditional worker abuse might have become accepted normality. There is nothing new in this, and although we hope that generous and friendly employers predominate, nevertheless, it is a tough life at work for some. Peter addresses the key question, "What should they do?"

The law may give rights to workers, but the court is not a good place to build relationships for Christ. Running away can relieve an immediate problem, but cannot secure the future. Peter's advice is to learn submission. You can almost hear his readers say, "But I am forced to submit!" However, there is a huge difference between the resentment of unwilling submission, and a deliberate choice to put yourself under another's authority. Take Jesus as an example: He was not forced to the cross. He willingly submitted himself to his Father's will and chose to undergo the suffering, in obedience, out of love and with joy (cf [Heb 12:2](#)).

Christian joy is based on the same principle. We belong to God, He has bought us and so He owns us, therefore He is our primary authority. We are called to serve Him, and so in that sense, He is our Boss as well as our Father. We are engaged in His family business and He uses every one of our daily encounters to demonstrate His love, power, mercy and grace - to us and to those around us. The way we react to personal injustice also shows how much we trust the Lord. The 'extra mile' (cf [Matt 5:40-42](#)) we travel for our unreasonable manager shows that he/she does not own us - we do it for the Lord. He will reward us. So, every day we are working for God; and our human employment is the opportunity to prove it.

**Prayer:** *Lord God Almighty. Thank You for calling me to work with you in Your family business, to rescue sinners and glorify your Name. When people oppress me, help me to remember how the some of the powerful, rich and religious treated Jesus. May my love for You grow more and more, so that I am willing to submit myself to whatever you command, and to do so without bitterness, resentment or fear. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet29 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**GODLY SUFFERING**

**1 Peter 2:19** *For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

Suffering is not fun. There is no natural reason to desire it, and everything in us wants to avoid it. Some grief comes through our foolishness, or as a consequence of living in a fallen world. But Jesus-followers may experience another pain which has no logic, except to attack the children of God simply because they belong to Him. Such suffering often comes in unexpected ways and unpredictable times. Prejudice and injustice should always offend the sensitive conscience, and when such wrongs come to our own door we certainly feel it. The issue for the Christian is: how to deal with it in a way that glorifies God.

It is a fact of the Christian life that Godly men or women will, at some time or another, experience rejection from people who do not bow to Jesus as Lord (cf [2 Timothy 3:12](#)). The mental, emotional or physical pain is real, and we may be tempted to think that God has forgotten to be kind to us. Not so. When others reject us, it is important to accept God's kind commendation. He honours all those who honour Jesus (cf [John 12:26](#)). Don't take it personally, the attack is not so much directed to us as individuals, but as representatives of our Saviour: although our persecutors may not fully recognise their motives.

So what should we do? Today's verse tells us to 'bear up'. The situation is neither hopeless nor unexplained. We know that God will not allow anything that goes beyond what we are able to bear, with His help (cf [1 Cor 10:13](#)). But we do have to bear it - that responsibility is ours - and refuse to allow it to crush us. The suffering is not only a trial but also a test (cf [James 1:2-4](#)), which will strengthen our faith and witness, if we do not give in to the temptation of self-pity. Every time we look at ourselves, deciding how to protect and preserve self, we cannot be looking to God at the same time. But when we look to Him, He will not only honour us but also provide a way for us to endure what is unfair - for His sake.

**Prayer:** *Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus. Although I do not like rejection and the effects of persecution, please help me to accept that you commend me for being unashamed of Jesus. Help me to bear the pain-load and not to descend into self pity. May I be refreshed in Your love so that I may be a cheerful and positive colleague at work, living and working to Your praise and glory. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet30 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

**W@W1Pet31**

**Word@Work from BeaconLight**

**GOOD OR BAD PAIN?**

**1 Peter 2:20** *But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Although it would be nice to think that we live in world full of kind people, that is an illusion. And sometimes, followers of Jesus are not much better. Alas, every believer has the potential to make wrong decisions and behave in an ungodly way. The reality is all too obvious: no Christian is perfect, and various griefs may follow sin. But it should never be mistaken for the suffering of persecution. Neither should we pretend that God is pleased with us simply because of suffering, when we have brought it upon ourselves. The right reaction is repentance, and an appeal for God's mercy through Christ's sacrifice on the cross (click to [www.crosscheck.org.uk](http://www.crosscheck.org.uk)).

However, when we are living for Christ, serving Him and doing good to others, Satan is furious (cf [Rev 12:12](#)). He often makes His attacks through people who resent that you serve Jesus. This evil mechanism seeks to spoil God's work in your life, and to disgrace Christ by urging you to solve the issue, unsatisfactorily, in your own strength. But, the Lord allows it so that by your endurance, you may demonstrate the sustaining grace of Christ, relying on His love alone (cf [1 John 4:16](#)). It is endurance which marks out the true disciple from the Christian enthusiast. Not that there is anything wrong with enthusiasm, but it is all too often expressed in the energy of the flesh, which soon exhausts itself.

Endurance depends on confidence that the end will be good. Marathon runners, mountain climbers and Olympians all know that the finish is more important than the beginning. It is the same for those who are born again. The knowledge that Jesus Christ is waiting at the finish line to award His prize has sustained many generations of sufferers to cling on - for all He is worth. Endurance demands daily decisions to reject the fleshly solution and cling to the Lord. It is the training and proving ground for heaven. And the workplace may provide plenty of opportunity to practice!

**Prayer:** *Loving Father. Although I dislike the trials that bring grief to my life, thank you for trusting me enough to bear them. Help me to endure the enemy's attacks; however they may come to me, with daily decisions to keep relying on Your love and faithfulness. Enable me to keep serving You as I work or care for others; even if they despise my faith, and their words and actions attempt to disable me. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet31 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet32**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **A TOUGH CALL**

**1 Peter 2:21-22** *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."* (NIV)

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Every job has its difficult times and hard moments: but when Jesus came to earth in order to die on the cross (paying the penalty for the sins of all of us), it was the toughest job ever. The worst agony was not physical pain, but bearing our shame - and being cut off from Father God as He died. He was totally innocent, committed no wrong deed and never spoke to deceive anybody; yet He suffered in every way.

All those who follow Jesus are called to suffering before we reach the glory. Wounds may come to our minds, emotions, souls and bodies: the injury may affect our lifestyle, reputation, wealth, family or health; the damage may be inflicted by friends as well as enemies, family as well as strangers. And this is no accident, it is our calling, if we are to follow Jesus. Of course, we can never out-suffer our Lord, nor ever claim to bear a unique pain that he cannot identify with; but we can be certain that He understands (cf [Heb 4:15](#)). But in His sovereignty, He will only allow the suffering that will build us up and glorify Himself (cf [1 Cor 10:13](#)).

Yet, naturally, we resist such trouble. Unlike Jesus, we may be tempted to do what is wrong in order to escape the hardship. We may be tempted to deceive people in an attempt to divert attention away from ourselves. Jesus did neither. And He expects that we will be like Him. Straightforward, honest and direct; staying true to the truth whatever happens. It may seem a tough call, to be ill-treated for loving Jesus, and to be slandered for telling the truth. This may happen even at work. But if it comes because of your devotion to Jesus Christ, you are fulfilling your calling, and he will reward you.

**Prayer:** *Almighty God. Although I wish that life was not so hard, please help me to understand that it was much harder for Jesus. I know that He endured the shame for the sake of the glory to come. Please help me to follow Jesus by living in a similar lifestyle; and to trust myself to You even in the lowest point of weakness or the depth of despair. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet32 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

### Word@Work from BeaconLight

#### ACTIVELY ACCEPTING

**1 Peter 2:23** *When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

Insults and injury always lead to suffering. There are two natural human reactions: retaliation or passive cowering. But Jesus did neither. Nor did He use the verbal retaliation of threats, as a way to protect Himself. This was not because He failed to feel the wounds, indeed the pain was intensified knowing that he was bearing God's wrath against our sin. But, despite that, Jesus knew that Father God was already in charge of His future, and thus had no need to struggle to guard His own integrity, personality or body: He trusted that His Father would deal with all that, and deal with it perfectly.

God always makes the right decisions. His, is the all-seeing eye and all-hearing ear. God is just in judging sinners, but also just to put our sins onto Jesus Christ. He is also just in accepting the sacrifice of Christ as the payment for our sins. And He was fully justified in being pleased at the obedience of Jesus in going to Calvary. That was why Jesus could endure the cross - by looking ahead to the joy that was before Him (cf [Heb 12:2](#)). So the suffering of Jesus was not a passive acceptance of injustice, or mute frustration of not being able to vent anger. He actively accepted that His suffering was part of being in God's will.

Such acceptance is supernatural. It looks beyond the suffering, to the fulfilment of God's purpose; and looks under the suffering, to see God's designer hand. And that is the way that all followers of Jesus should react to injustice, especially when it comes because of being a servant of Christ. The workplace often provides opportunities to practice this godly reaction; when we are misunderstood or simply abused for belonging to Jesus Christ. When suffering comes, it is a test of your faith, to see if you will entrust yourself to God (His mercy and His grace) whatever the circumstances; and let Him be the vindicator of the righteous and the judge of the wicked.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord. Please help me to accept that every circumstance of life is known by you, and that none is allowed except by Your sovereign will. So help me to grow in faith so that I can entrust my future to You; even when I cannot see what to do, or how to resolve the issues that seek to drag me down. May my time at work also provide evidence to You and others that I really do entrust myself to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet33 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet34**

**Word@Work from BeaconLight**

**GOD'S STRATEGIC INVESTMENT**

**1 Peter 2:24** *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

The global recession of 2008/9 shook financial markets as investments became unstable with diminishing yields. Nevertheless, much of the capital was not withdrawn because investors hoped to benefit in the long term. This is a very weak illustration of God's long term strategy of investing all His hopes and plans for the future of the world into Jesus. Although Christ's death may have looked like a disaster, His resurrection showed that the greedy domination of evil was not all-powerful; God's sacrificial investment would be realised in Christ's church.

All of our sins were in Jesus when He was nailed to the cross (click to [www.crosscheck.org.uk](http://www.crosscheck.org.uk)). His death was the penalty payment for all our wrong-doing and rebellion against God's authority in our lives. True followers of Jesus believe this, and they are grateful to be released from the guilt, shame and punishment of their sin. But it does not stop there. God now expects a return on His investment. Firstly, He expects us to reject the idea that sin is ok: we must learn to resist temptation. Secondly, we must wake up to the fact that we now belong to Christ and so we now live and work for a new Master; and we have an obligation to do whatever is right in his eyes.

The healing, which comes from sins forgiven, is not intended for us to squander in selfishness and sinful living; but to enliven us for God's service. Surely, we should do all we can to express our gratitude through a Jesus-lifestyle. Both home and work should be transformed as we demonstrate godly righteousness every day. That is why Jesus died for us. So, is God pleased with his investment of Jesus into your life? When we fall in weakness, God wants us to claim forgiveness and rise in His strength to serve Him. Anything less, is a waste of our lives, and of Christ's.

**Prayer:** *Gracious God. I am truly grateful for the sacrifice of Jesus on my behalf. Yet I am also sad that I have failed to express my gratitude in a transformed life. I have sometimes assumed, wrongly, that I am now free to please myself. Please forgive me for despising Your investment of love and grace in me; and help me to choose, daily, to reject sin and live a life that pleases You. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at

<http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet34 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**RETURNING TO SECURITY**

**1 Peter 2:25** *For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Being lost is awful: being found is awesome. In the early days of following Jesus, that contrast is often so marked. Can you remember the relief of sins forgiven, of being found and welcomed into God's family and embraced with His love? Being lost is so wasteful of everything; so purposeless and so hopeless. That is the state of all those who have not welcomed Jesus into their hearts, whether they know it or not.

Jesus' story of the lost sheep shows that He cares so much about the lost sheep, that He will give the highest priority to their rescue ([Luke 15:1-7](#)). His story of the lost coin describes the same rescue in financial terms ([Luke 15:8-10](#)). The story of the prodigal son then puts it in terms of human family relationships ([Luke 15:11-32](#)). All the stories have the same meaning - God wants to find lost people. The prodigal son started on the road back to his father when he repented. Repentance is the always the first step in returning to Father God (click to [www.crosscheck.org.uk](http://www.crosscheck.org.uk) for more).

If you have come to God through Jesus Christ, you have returned to your Shepherd. All His suffering, in being rejected, is so that you might be accepted. He was cast down, so that you might be lifted up. He died, so that you might live; and He accepted God wrath, so that you might receive God's love. If you have returned to Him for His shepherd-like care, please note that He is also your Overseer. He watches over you to see that you fulfil your place in His world and His family - so that he may have the glory. So, is He pleased with what He sees as He observes you at work and home today?

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord. Thank you for coming to find me. Thank you for making me clean through the blood of Christ and for welcoming me into Your family. Thank you for watching over me in love and care, and also in expectation that I will please You. Help me to honour all your commitment to me, by being fully committed to You. For Your glory's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet35 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

#### **GODLINESS AT HOME**

**1 Peter 3:1-2** *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

In the previous chapter ([1 Peter 2](#)), we have seen the need to submit to Christ, the government, the church and our human employers - even if that involved suffering. Peter's reason was that Christ submitted to the suffering of the cross; in order to set us free from sin to serve the Lord, in a wicked world where we will suffer too. Now the teaching focuses on the home and marriage, especially where one partner follows Jesus and the other does not.

Although human pride resents the idea of submission, it is an essential Biblical principle of willingly putting yourself under the authority of another. Submission can be forced onto people, and that looks rather ugly; but God's plan is that we should choose to submit out of reverence for Christ (cf [Eph 5:21](#)). At home, cultural differences may allow wives to have either a lot of freedom, or only a little. But Peter is not reflecting 1st century culture, or prescribing a cultural style - rather he is teaching that unbelieving husbands will be motivated to enquire about the gospel when they see it lived out at home. Conversely, a rebellious and argumentative wife is no advertisement for the gospel: and the same is true for husbands!

Love is always best expressed in submission and sacrifice. It is the free, willing and glad surrender of personal rights in order to give another person the best that can be given. It was like that for Jesus too. This passage is not saying that wives should be oppressed like slaves; but rather a healthy reminder that proud assertion and arrogant defiance have no place in gospel ministry. In the home environment, godliness is best demonstrated in purity and gracious honour. Although people may think that faith in Jesus is foolish; watching holiness lived out at close-quarters is the ultimate compelling evidence that Jesus really does transform lives; and it leads others to desire Him for themselves.

**Prayer:** *Father God. Despite the cultural models of family life around me, may I honour you by submitting to the needs of others at home: not because it is my duty, but because I want to love them for Your sake. Please forgive me when my pride leads me to rebellious selfishness: please show me the way back through the example of Jesus who sacrificed everything for me. In His precious Name. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet36 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

W@W1Pet37

## Word@Work from BeaconLight

### THE SOURCE OF BEAUTY

**1 Peter 3:3-4** *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

It should not be surprising that feminine beauty catches the eye. God designed women to be beautiful. But the global industry in fragrances, make-up, jewellery, fashion and beauty accessories indicates a consumer market that is unsatisfied. And men can be vain as well! As with all other areas of greed, when becoming beautiful becomes an obsession, the mirror reflects spiritual values as well as physical appearance. Of course, it is not wrong to look attractive, any more than it is wrong to be washed and clean: but at what point have you gone beyond caring for your body, to worshipping it - and making it your god?

Peter tells us what is most attractive about a person. It has nothing to do with how we change the outside of our bodies (or even our diet). It comes from deep inside of us. Hearts that are satisfied with the grace of God in Christ Jesus, will become people of quiet confidence and gentle strength. The first person who notices is God, and He is pleased to see it; such people are wearing the fruits of His Holy Spirit. Next, the wife, who is content in her heart because of God's love, will win the trust and respect of her husband; like the woman described in [Proverbs 31:10-31](#).

Charm can be put on to impress and deceive; and physical looks will suffer as aging becomes obvious. But a woman who honours the Lord, will shine with an integrity which years cannot defeat (cf [Proverbs 31:30](#)). Although the context for this verse is attractiveness within marriage, especially if the husband does not yet belong to Jesus; the principle needs to run through all of our lives. A satisfied heart will produce a winning loveliness which nobody can deny. So, we must all guard our hearts against the assertiveness, arrogance and greed which may be found in some homes and workplaces (cf [Prov 4:23](#)). The first step to getting this area of life right - is to confess that it is wrong. Then entrust yourself to the Lord, to rebuild your heart from the inside.

**Prayer:** *Almighty God. Please forgive me when I think I can impress others by changing my outward appearance. I know that a quiet conscience is more valuable, and a trusting heart is more confident, than any thing else can ever achieve for me. Please help me to invest more in the state of my heart than the look of my face. And please work a new strong gentleness into my life as I keep on choosing to receive Your love. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

---

Share **Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet37 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet38**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **HOLINESS BREEDS CONFIDENCE**

**1 Peter 3:5-6** *For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - *in English, and many other languages*

---

Holiness should not make people dull or dowdy. Instead, holiness (the desire to be set apart for God and His service) should be very attractive. The English saying, "Beauty is the eye of the beholder" misses the key to real beauty - which is a deep love for the Lord and a heartfelt passion to please Him. Beauty comes from a God-loved heart, a quiet conscience and a satisfied spirit; which no jewellery can ever manufacture. The key to these qualities is submission, the willing acceptance of God's right over us, and to accept what He allows.

The example of Sarah in the Old Testament is interesting. Although the Genesis text does not show her to be perfect, she recognised Abraham to be the head of their household, and the one who took responsibility for household decisions. She was not prevented from making suggestions, or expressing her opinion even when she was wrong. And in the end she received the blessing of her submission to her husband's will. Despite the strange circumstances of their lives, she learned to grow in trust and refuse to give in to fear.

The temptation to solve our problems in our own way, is always present. Often when we consider that matters are hopeless, we take action out of desperation or fear. But God has appointed husbands to take the final responsibility, under God, in the home. But whatever the situation at home, living in apprehension all the time is not good, because God will honour those who submit themselves to him, and who trust themselves to Him.

**Prayer:** *Father God. Please help me to cultivate holiness in my life; to desire to please You in everything. Help me to choose to place myself under the authority of those You have given to protect and lead me. And even when they make wrong decisions, give me the grace to still respect them and to trust You to protect me in situations I cannot control. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet38 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet39**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **WHEN HUSBANDS STOP ANSWERS TO PRAYER**

**1 Peter 3:7** *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.(NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

Peter has been instructing wives in the responsibility of holy living ([1 Peter 3:1-6](#)); now he addresses the husbands. Despite the strength that men possess, they are urged to treat their wives with gentleness and respect. However much a man may be involved with his work, when he comes home, he is to think about his wife's needs, and to consider what makes her happy. Women are not servants for mens' needs and pleasure, they are partners in the marriage, and equal inheritors of God's Kingdom (if they are both believers in Jesus).

It seems that few married couples understand that to be out of relationship with each other, means that they have an impaired relationship with God too. The careless selfishness or arrogant bullying of a husband reduces his prayers to meaningless words, which God may not answer. God intends that a husband should provide the necessary spiritual nurture for his wife; it should be his priority to ensure that she stays firmly on track for heaven. In the domestic context, he is her primary pastor.

Of course, many couples do not intend to get into an uncaring relationship - they usually just drift into it. So Peter's instruction is helpful to many who need to re-examine their marriages. While submission is the responsibility of the wife, consideration and respect is the obligation of the husband. So too is the leadership of the prayer life in the marriage. Where Christian couples have departed from this pattern they need to repent and return. Those who are being obedient now need to watch lest they drift. And those whose spouses are unbelievers should play their part well and trust the rest to God.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord. Thank you for this reminder of the need to be in a right relationship at home if we are to gain your blessing. Please forgive me for past failures and help me to live in the light of Your Word in the future. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet39 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM

**W@W1Pet40**

## **Word@Work from BeaconLight**

### **LIVING UNDER PRESSURE**

**1 Peter 3:8-9** *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. (NIV)*

---

You can read the verses around this Bible passage from the [Internet Bible](#): - in English, and many other languages

---

We all live under pressure to some degree. How we live, is determined by what we believe. Peter's personal relationship style was rather bold, blunt and opinionated; but he let God work on His character. He had found out the hard way that working with God's people was better than fighting against them; and humility was better than pride ... not just because the relationships became harmonious, but also because it was the lifestyle that God had called him into. It was not right because it worked: it worked because it was right.

Trading insults is common enough in any secular arena where Jesus is not honoured. But it is not the Jesus-way. He received evil but gave out blessing, and expects us to do the same (cf [Luke 6:27-28](#)). When we trust the Lord for our lives and futures, He will deal with those who oppose us. We may not be able to trust them, but we can pray that the Lord will bring them to repentance.

The thought of heaven often puts our lives into context. We are called to be with the Lord for ever and to inherit His blessing (do note that God never says that all the blessing comes in this life!). If that is true, and it is, then we need to start to practice the life which blesses people instead of cursing them. The workplace and the church can both provide opportunities to meet and bless difficult people. Your circumstances are God's school where you can learn how to respond like Jesus. So do not despair or trade insults; but react in humble compassion - difficult people are usually hurt people, who need the love of Jesus.

**Prayer:** *Gracious Lord. How I thank You for your kindness to me despite my lifestyle failures. Help me to show compassion to the hurt people around me, and to seek Your blessing where human nature would naturally curse. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

---

**Share Word@Work** with your friends - they can subscribe at <http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email>

If you **value your free Word@Work**, [click here to make a donation](#) which will help us to maintain and develop the ministry - thank you!

All the 'back copies' for the series in the Bible books of Mark, Ephesians and James can be found on [www.beaconlight.co.uk/email](http://www.beaconlight.co.uk/email)

W@W1Pet40 | [Word@Work](#) © Dr Paul Adams 2009 | Provided by [BeaconLight](#)  
Contact us at [wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk](mailto:wordatwork@beaconlight.co.uk)

---

BeaconLight Trust, 150 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, UNITED KINGDOM