

## The Defense for My Hope

### 1 Peter 3:15

#### Introduction

1. Christians are to be living advertisements for the salvation God offers the world by grace.
  - a. Bold claims, like claiming to have eternal hope, require evidence.
  - b. There are government regulations on state and federal levels which prohibit false claims in advertisement. (Food, medicine, etc.)
  - c. In the same way, the word of God must be the substantiating standard of our claim to have hope.
2. The Bible tells Christians to always be ready to give a defense for their hope – **1 Peter 3:15**
3. This requirement is more than just sharing a personal anecdote, but it is the relay of an objective standard revealed by the Lord Jesus – **cf. Acts 16:30-31** – he was essentially asking them for a reason of their hope despite being imprisoned, a reason for their salvation for him to have the same.
4. What is the reason for the hope of a Christian? What is the defense for my hope?
  - I. The Grounds for My Defense
    - A. The Need for a Defense
      - a. Defense – *apologia* – “defense; as a legal technical term, a speech in defense of oneself reply, verbal defense; as a religious technical term defense of the gospel message from false teaching” (ALGNT)
        - i. The argument is given “to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.” (NASB)
        - ii. Any bold assertion must shoulder the burden of proof. We cannot claim hope without being able to produce the evidence for it.
      - b. Paul’s preaching was with reason, and evidence – **Acts 17:1-4**
      - c. The Bereans sought reason behind Paul’s teaching – **Acts 17:11** – they were not willing to just take his word but investigated the evidence with verified scripture.
      - d. Faith is evidence based, and includes substance – **Hebrews 11:1** – What is the evidence upon which my hope rests? Or is it unfounded?
    - B. The Standard
      - a. The Lordship of Christ – **1 Peter 3:15** – **“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts” (NASB) – The defense to be given relies entirely upon the authority of Jesus.**
      - b. Salvation is based on His authorized means – **John 5:24-27** – Jesus determines how one is to obtain hope.
      - c. His words are the standard of judgment – **John 12:48**
      - d. **“He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9).**



- b. Jesus speaks to Nicodemus of the new birth – **John 3:3-8**
    - b. **(v. 3)** – **“again”** – **1 Peter 1:3** – **“begotten us again”**
      - 1. Same birth to receive hope of inheritance.
      - 2. Thus, same birth to become a child of God.
    - c. **(v. 5)** – characteristics of birth introduced.
      - 1. **“born of God”** = **“of water and the Spirit”**
      - 2. **(v. 4)** – Nicodemus’ confusion.
      - 3. **(vv. 6-8)** – Jesus’ explanation.
      - 4. It is a spiritual birth – **“again”** – **“from above,” NKJV fn**
    - d. Birth to **“enter the kingdom of God” (v. 5):**
      - 1. To be in the kingdom is to have salvation – **Colossians 1:13-14** – redemption, forgiveness.
      - 2. The reception of Jesus that is involved in being born again also involves belief in His name, leading to salvation – **John 3:14-17**
  - c. **What does it mean to be born of water and the Spirit?**
- C. Born of Water and the Spirit
- a. New birth expounded upon with the introduction of the hope – **1 Peter 1:22-25**
    - b. **(v. 22)** – purified souls = blessings of entrance into the kingdom.
      - 1. Such had to come from the new birth of **“water and the Spirit.”**
    - c. **(v. 23)** – born of incorruptible seed, word of God.
      - 1. Incorruptible seed = word
      - 2. Seed in you = born of God – **“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth” (James 1:18)**
        - a. Born of God = begotten again by God (**1 Peter 1:3**)
        - b. Born of God = of water and Spirit (**John 1:13; 3:5**)
        - c. Born of God via the word of God which is His seed...born of the Spirit?
    - d. Where is the Spirit (born of Spirit) in this?
      - 1. **“you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls” (v. 22, NASB)**
      - 2. What does the Spirit have to do with the truth?
        - a. **1 Peter 1:2** – Spirit sanctifies – **“sprinkling of the blood”** – **“purified your souls”**
        - b. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** – sanctification by Spirit and belief in truth.
      - 3. Spirit’s work = word’s work. (The word is the Spirit’s instrument – **Ephesians 6:17**)
      - 4. Born again through the word **(v. 23)** = Born of the Spirit.
  - b. Born of water?
    - b. Different aspects, but same birth: Birth of water = birth of Spirit = born of the word of God.

- c. Word of God = gospel – **1 Peter 1:25**
  - 1. By the Holy Spirit – **1 Peter 1:12**
- d. What does the gospel say? – **Mark 16:15-16**
- e. The baptism required by the Spirit's gospel saves, and is a baptism in water:
  - 1. Context of initial defense for hope – **1 Peter 3:15-17** – suffering for doing good.
    - a. Don't suffer for evil, but as a Christian (**4:16**) – one who is **"born of God."**
    - b. **"having a good conscience" (v. 16)** – i.e. maintain your good conscience, untainted by sin.
    - c. How did you receive the **"good conscience"** to begin with? (**cf. Romans 3:23** – i.e. if all have sinned?)
  - 2. **1 Peter 3:21** – baptism is the **"appeal to God for a good conscience" (NASB)**.
    - a. **"antitype"** – i.e. corresponding to a type – **"Corresponding to that" (NASB)**.
    - b. (**v. 20**) – God saving 8 souls through water – **"Corresponding to that..."** we are saved through water baptism – because it is the God prescribed appeal to Him for a good conscience.
- c. Baptism is the birth of water and the Spirit which makes one a child of God, giving him the hope of the inheritance – **1 Peter 1:3-4**
  - b. The defense for this hope – **Galatians 3:26, 29**
  - c. I am a son of God through faith in Christ – because I have been baptized into Christ – thus I have put on Christ – and I am Abraham's seed, and an heir according to the promise.
  - d. If this be true, then the opposite is true:
    - 1. IF NOT? I am NOT a son of God through faith in Christ – because I have NOT been baptized into Christ – thus I have NOT put on Christ – and I am NOT Abraham's seed, and I am NOT an heir according to the promise.

### Conclusion

- 1. The Christian's hope is certain, not based on anything they have done to earn it, but because they have met the conditions of God's grace.
- 2. The defense of hope is meant as evidence for God's standard for salvation. Will you obey it and receive the hope of eternal life in heaven?