

Four Essentials For Sharing Our Hope.

1. We need hope properly focused.

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

I Peter 3:15

Hope is ... an optimistic outlook based on powerful promises

How do I know if I'm focused?

2. We need reasons already prepared.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

I Peter 3:15

How do I get prepared?

3. We need gentleness sincerely expressed.

"But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

I Peter 3:15-16

How do I know if my attitude is right?

"Live such good lives, such gentle, respectful lives among people that even though they might insult you at first they're going to turn around and they're going to praise God and glorify God on the day He visits."

1 Peter 2:12

4. We need confidence courageously maintained.

"[Jesus] went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of God's judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved, eight to be exact."

I Peter 3:19-20 (TM)

The illustration of Noah reminds us of two things:

- 1) If Noah had Christ with him, so do we.
- 2) If Noah could handle the insults and the persecution, so can we.

How do I know if I'm really ready?