

***How can I survive
in a tough & cruel
environment?***



1Pet.2:18

Introduction



- **Being a Christian is tough in an uncaring world.**
- **Biggest concern is being a right kind of example and not letting our light burn out.**
- **Matthew 5:14-16**

All of my conduct is in reverent fear of God

- Conduct, or way of life is uppermost in my mind in all occasions.
- As a Christian, I live in reverent fear of God.
- OMG replaced with RFG.
- This is the meaning behind the Commandment #3
- Verses on reverent fear



I submit to my boss or superiors

- Masters or bosses in the ancient world were often cruel
- Domestic violence by the *paterfamilias* as a means of social control
- Quotes from Fitzgerald's work
- "Submission" in 1 Peter



I bear up under the pain



- **Examples of bearing up under the pain in Peter's day (Persecution)**
- **"Bears up under the pain" is literally the expression, "endures griefs."**
- **Example of Jesus comes into play here**
- **During the days of Jesus' life on earth...(Hebrews 5:7-9)**

I am conscious of God



- moral conscience
- 1 Peter 2:20—“But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.”
- Conscious of God & Commendable before God—Christian faith not ritual, but Presence!

Conclusion: practical steps



- **Every moment, no matter the situation, I am aware of God's presence.**
- **Every act and all of my conduct is based on my reverent fear of God.**

Conclusion: practical steps



- **Be patient when others curse or swear around me or at me.**
- **I must at all times portray a respectful demeanor toward those who are cruel and uncaring.**

Conclusion: practical steps



- **I bear up under unjust treatment when I remember how unjustly my Lord Jesus was treated.**
- **Being the right kind of example, honoring God, makes my light shine brighter.**

Conclusion: practical steps

- Remember my attitudes, behavior, words in a bad situation may plant a seed of light or hope in someone's heart!
- I am Jesus to others!

