

May 14, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR YOUR HOPE?

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Second Reading

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.

1 PETER 3:15-18

Reflection

The author of this letter knows that the Christian recipients are already suffering. They are urged to respond gently and respectfully with hope. Not only does this way of life give them support, it gives witness to their sustaining and fulfilling relationship with the Holy One.

Jesus suffered as an innocent person for the sake of the not-so-innocent. Those reading this letter find themselves in "good company," so to speak. Choosing a way to respond to one's suffering is a continual challenge, yet it does not have to be a burden. Gentleness and hope suggest a freedom of heart that is stronger than any suffering.



A hand reaches from the darkness to the light, holding a white flower.
Photo by Athena / Pexels

For Prayer

*Loving, caring God,
all the happiness and fulfillment
in my life
come from you.
Knowing how absolute
is my dependence on you,
I find peace of mind.
Your presence*

*suffuses my life,
caressing me with
hope, joy and love.
I've tasted your love
I've known your compassion,
I've experienced your patience,
and I am filled with
gratefulness.*

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