

BE PATIENT

"If, when you do right and suffer for it, you take it patiently, you have God's approval." (1 Pt 2:20).

1

Saint Peter is explaining to the Christian communities how to apply the Gospel in concrete ways and with a genuine spirit.

He is talking to the slaves who have become Christians and like all slaves at that time, they had to submit to mistreatment and even gross injustices.

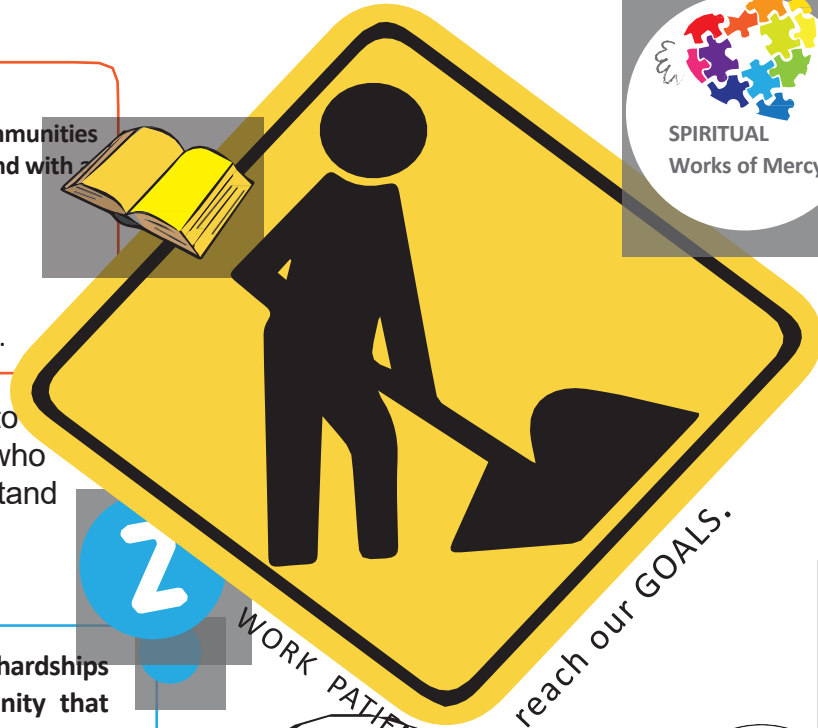
These words can also be directed to all those, in every time and place, who suffer because others don't understand them or treat them unjustly.

Peter invites us to:

Respond with love, seeing that these hardships and misunderstandings are an opportunity that God gives us to prove if we are really Christians.

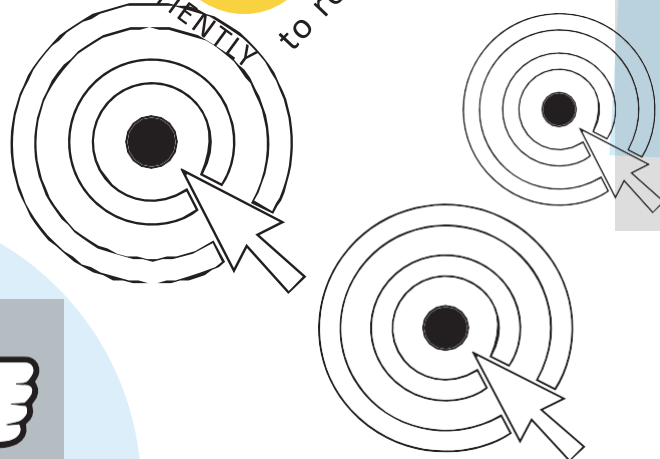
By loving them in concrete ways, bring God even to those who mistreat us.

Jesus asks us to love everyone, without making any distinctions. He wants to teach us how to build a society that is truly just. We can do this by spreading the spirit of true love, being the first to start, taking the initiative in loving.



2

WORK PATIENTLY to reach our GOALS.



3

We, too, can be misunderstood or treated badly in many different ways. People might hurt us by thoughtless remarks or by being rude, or judging us wrongly, insulting us or being ungrateful for what we do. We can even suffer outright injustice.



4

How can we live this Word of Life?

Even in these painful situations, we can give witness to the love that Jesus brought on earth. He taught us to love everyone, which means also those who hurt or offend us.

Even when we legitimately defend truth and justice, let's not ever forget that our first duty as Christians is to love the other person. This "new" attitude helps us to understand, welcome and be merciful towards them, just as Jesus is with us.

Even when we defend ourselves, let's never break the relationship with our neighbor. Let's not give in to the temptation to be resentful or to take revenge on them for what they did.