

SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER



HOW TO HAVE A GODLY VIEW OF SUFFERING

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1 PETER 4:12-19

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

SUMMARY

In 1 Peter 4:12-19, Peter provides believers with the essential perspective needed when facing suffering for our faith. While God rarely reveals the specific "why" behind our hardships, He has given us everything required to view our circumstances through His lens. Every trial permitted in the lives of God's people serves to prepare us for the moment we meet Jesus face-to-face. Knowing and recalling God's viewpoint on suffering for His Name empowers us to respond in faith, a response He will eternally reward.

Philippians 3:10-11 CSB

¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

Hebrews 2:18

¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

EXPECT FIERY TRIALS (HARD TIMES WILL COME)

EMBRACE THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE (GOD IS WITH ME)

ENTRUST YOUR SOUL TO YOUR FAITHFUL CREATOR AND
JUDGE (I CAN TRUST HIM)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe one of your most rewarding but challenging trips or experiences (such as a hike, road trip, mission trip, etc).
 2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. What is the big idea of this passage?
 3. Read John 15:18-27. Do you think it is true that Christians are often caught by surprise when suffering comes? Why or why not?
 4. What are the most common internal fears or doubts Christians can face when suffering?
 5. What promises and/or truths are found in 1 Pt 4:14-16 to battle those fears and doubts?
 6. Describe someone who has walked well with you through times of suffering. What set them apart?
 7. Read 1 Pt 4:17-19. What role does God judgment have on helping us endure suffering at the hands of unbelievers?
 8. In what way(s) has 1 Peter 4 been a timely passage for you in your life right now?
 9. What did God have most for you from this passage or Sunday's message?
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