



# THE VILLAGE CHURCH

## **1 Peter**

**Experiencing Victory in  
a Hostile World -**

***“... a primer for winning the  
war that really matters”***



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# Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. In Peter's letter, he does not address every form of suffering. Describe some of the types of suffering found in Scripture.
2. Unfortunately, a number of believers fail to grasp the future dimensions of the blessings brought about by the sacrificial work of Christ. Describe how this manifests itself today?
3. Is it true that we must suffer now in order to experience glory later?

# *Sufferings' Different Categories*

1. Suffering because we are a part of a fall creation (Rom. 8:18-25)
2. Suffering for temporal consequences of personal sin (believers and unbelievers): Prov. 1:20-33; Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 5:1-11
3. The eternal suffering of hell for rejecting Christ (Luke 16:19-31)
4. The sometimes “involuntary” suffering at the loving hand of God to enhance our trust and obedience as His sons (Job; Heb. 12:1-13; James 1:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7)
5. Voluntary suffering in identification with Christ and in living a godly life (John 15:13; Rom. 12:10) Suffering, one purposes to endure, suffering one knowingly brings about by doing what is right.

# The true test of our spirituality occurs when we come upon suffering...

- We are all capable of being spiritually weak (lazy)...seeking peace from the world (Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Pet. 1:13).
- Do you see every circumstance as the means of obtaining a greater knowledge of Jesus Christ?
- (Phil. 3:10) -- The aim of a spiritually strong believer is “that I may know Him...”
- Do not take the initiative towards self-realization, rather towards Christ-realization. (John 13:3-5)



# 1 Peter

## *Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World*

- Introduction  
*Peter 's Life & Background Overview*
- Salutation (1:1 – 2)  
*Our Election into Grace*
- Our Past: Remember Our Anchor... (1:3 – 2:10)  
*We Have so Great a Salvation*
- Our Present: Remember Our Testimony... (2:11 – 4:6)  
*How We Navigate Life Really Matters*
- **Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope... (4:7 – 5:11)**  
***Our Lord Will Return Soon***
- Closing (5:12 – 14)  
*Greetings, Benediction & Review*





# Suffering for God's Glory

**Our Objective:** What does God want us to learn and do?

*To challenge God's people to find joy in suffering which means that they suffer for the right reasons.*

## Our Approach During Suffering

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, *(Expect Suffering)*

as though some strange thing were happening to you;  
13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ,  
keep on rejoicing, so that  
also at the revelation of His glory *(Rejoice in Suffering)*  
you may rejoice with exultation.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ,  
you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 Make sure that none of you suffers  
as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian,  
he is not to be ashamed, *(Evaluate your Suffering)*  
but is to glorify God in this name.

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God;  
and if it begins with us first,  
what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,  
what will become of the godless man and the sinner? *(Entrust yourself*

19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God  
shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. *to God)*

# Suffering for God's Glory

## I. Peter's Premise: Believers will Suffer (1:6-9; 2:21)

### A. Suffering is necessary

- God is Sovereign both in our Salvation (1:1-5) and in our Suffering.
- No suffering occurs without purpose.
- God is aware of every aspect of our sorrow (Ps. 56:8), and every affliction comes from Him (Job 1, 2; Ps. 119:75).
- There is no senseless suffering for any believer.  
“God causes all things...  
to work together for our good.” (Rom. 8:28)





# Suffering for God's Glory

B. Suffering exists for only a little while, but Glory lasts forever

Our earthly suffering is temporary, while heavenly glory is eternal

See 1 Pet. 5:10

C. Rejoice in our Suffering

*"In this you rejoice"* (1:6-9)....In what? Entire context of vv. 3-5

What are the elements of the Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation?

- o Prompted by God's Great Mercy (3a)
- o Gives us Hope (3)
- o Hope is wrapped in an Inheritance (4)
- o And preserved by God's Power (5a)
- o Guarded through Present faith for a final salvation (Glorification)

# Suffering for God's Glory

## C. Rejoice in our Suffering

Something else we see is that the Sovereign Joy of our Salvation will evidence itself by a faith that perseveres.

Five characteristics of this persevering faith.... A persevering faith that:

1. Results in Joy (6a)
2. Stands the Test of Trials (6b-7)
3. Loves the Lord (Whom we have not seen) (8a)
4. Believes in the Lord (Whom we don't see) (8b)
5. Is the means of final Salvation (9)

## D. Called for this Purpose

Look at 2:21.... "For you have been called for this purpose.....(what?) Suffering