

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope
Our Lord Will Return
Soon (4:7 – 5:11)

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Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. What is the spiritual benefit of a "fiery ordeal" (1 Pet. 4:12)?
2. How should the sufferings of Christ motivate you to rejoice while enduring trials (1 Pet. 4:13)?
3. What specific way is the name of Christ the cause for reproach (1 Pet. 4:14)?
4. Why is it a privilege to suffer for righteousness?

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



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 *(Rejoice in Suffering)*
also at the revelation of His glory
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.
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- 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 to God)*
- 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.



Suffering for God's Glory

Our Objective: What does God want us to learn?

To recognize that the Completed sufferings of Christ and the Continued sufferings of Christians are being intimately related.

Expect Suffering

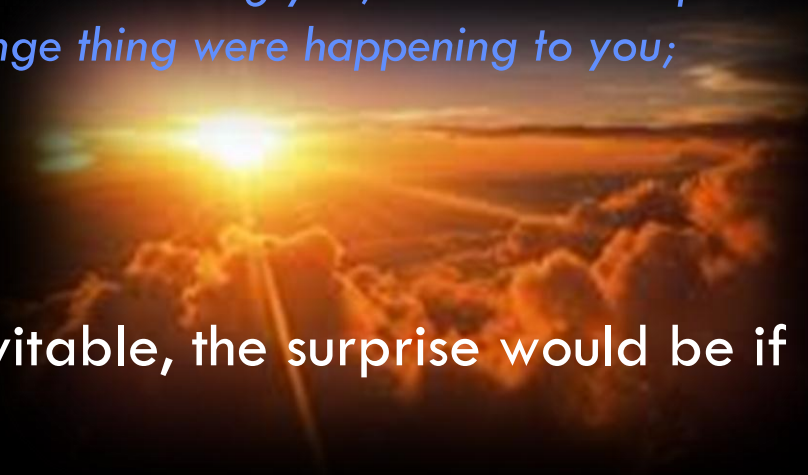
I. We must Expect to Suffer (4:12)

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

A. Suffering is Inevitable.

If persecution and suffering is inevitable, the surprise would be if it didn't come. (John 15:18)

B. Suffering is the price of Discipleship (2 Tim. 3:12)



Expect Suffering

Disciples need the assurance of God's Love

- “Beloved” (4:12) is a pastoral term that conveys tenderness, compassion, affection, and care.
- God the Father uses this same word describing Jesus declaring that: “This is My beloved Son, In whom I am well-pleased” (Matt. 3:17)
- Suffering is God’s will for those whom He Loves (2:11)

You are not only God’s chosen race; royal priesthood; holy nation; people for his own possession...you are also His “only beloved”

Expect Suffering

Disciples face many difficulties in life

- “Do not be surprised” – Peter is saying stop being caught off guard. Stop being surprised. The natural attitude is to look on persecution or testing or affliction as something strange or abnormal. (1 Pet. 5:10)
- Peter repeated stressed Mental readiness! (what you believe determines how you behave) That which was vital for believers who would walk in the power of Christ’s victory on the Cross over sin, Satan and the world –
“ Gird your minds.... Keep sober.... Fix your hope
.... Be of sound judgment and sober spirit. (1 Pet.

1:13; 4:7; 5:8)

Expect Suffering

C. Suffering is a test of Genuine Faith

Peter describes suffering as the “fiery ordeal.”

Descriptive term that speaks of burning and pictures a furnace that melts down metal to purge it of foreign elements.

- Ps. 66:10 God has tried us with fire Symbolic of affliction, which the Lord designs for our Spiritual purity.
- Prov. 27:21 ...and a man is tested by the praise accorded him.
- 1 Pet. 1:6-7 ...and though tested by fire,
- Believers are willing to endure adversity because they know it proves the genuineness of their faith. So the fiery trial refers to the persecution for Living the life of faith
(See Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21)



Rejoice in Suffering

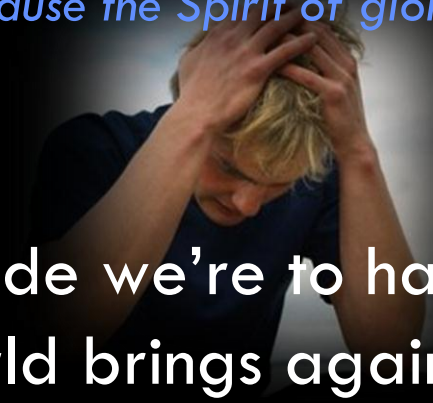
II. Rejoice in Suffering (4:13)

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory 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.

A. Our Attitude.

“Keep on rejoicing” indicates the attitude we’re to have in the midst of trials. Anything the world brings against us for the sake of righteousness is cause for rejoicing.

- “Rejoice and be glad”, for your reward in heaven is great...” (Matt. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23)





Rejoice in Suffering

- In many believers' minds, one's plight in this life should be thought of only in terms of contrast with the next. It is true that we suffer now in order to experience glory later. But in verses 12-13, Peter insists that we must also think in terms of continuity.

We must Rejoice now in order to Rejoice later

- Acts 5:41 Rejoicing....that they were worthy to suffer
- James 1:2-3 Count it all joy....fall into various trials
- In our own strength, this is not possible. Joy is the divine benefit of the believer's standing in Christ and a Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22; 1 Thess. 1:6)

Rejoicing in Suffering

B. Our Motivation.

“To the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ” indicates that in suffering for what is right, we are partners in the same kinds of sufferings Jesus endured.

- Suffering for Doing what is right.
- We can share His Rejection and reproach
- Acts 5:41-42 Dishonored for His name
- Acts 9:4 Sinners persecute us...persecute Christ
- 2 Tim. 4:17 “The Lord stood with me”

Rejoicing in Suffering

“To the degree” indicates that our eternal reward is a direct reflection of our earthly suffering. (See Col. 1:24; Luke 6:22-23)

What is the “revelation of His glory” referring to?
Christ's second coming (Matt. 24:30)

When he returns, believers will “*rejoice with exultation.*”

Spurgeon writes: “If you do not share in Christ’s humiliation, how can you expect to share in his exaltation?”



Rejoice in Suffering

- “*The name of Christ*” is the cause of Reproach (evil hatred) directed toward believers. (Matt. 10:22; 24:9).
- If His name sums up all that He is, what does “*for the name of Christ*” mean to us? See Acts 4:12; 5:41, 9:16, 15:26).
- All the hatred and violence of the world against Christians does not diminish their blessedness -- Actually, They are more blessed for suffering. Why?...because the “Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you”

“Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you”

What did Peter mean by this statement?

*Reference to the objective presence
and power of the Holy Spirit.*

Do you think there is any connection to **Isa. 11:2?**

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

“Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you”

- Describe some of the ways, the Holy Spirit ministers to believers today?



- “Glory” refers to *The Spirit’s essential attribute* (Ps. 93:1; 104:1; Ex. 24:16-17; 34:5-8; 1 Kings 8:11)

“Shekinah” – God’s earthly presence

- “Rest” refers to *relief, refreshment, intermission from toil.* (Matt. 11:28-29; Mark 6:31)

- Gal. 5:22-23 *Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, ...*

“Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you”



Explain how the Holy Spirit's power rested upon Stephen
Acts 6:15; 7:55-56, 59-60

Spirit controlled grace!

Read *2 Cor. 12:9-10* What was Paul's testimony
regarding the Spirit's work in his life?

Spirit powered grace!

Evaluate Your Suffering

A. Suffering for the Wrong Reasons (4:15)

Is it true that not all suffering brings Holy Spirit relief?



Trouble stemming from lawless actions does not constitute suffering for righteousness.

Peter lists 4 areas or categories of sin:

- The first 2 – “murderer” and “thief” are capital crimes
- The second 2 – “evildoer” and “troublesome meddler” are general crimes

“evildoer”, a term that covers all crimes 2:12 and 2:14...NIV “any other kind of criminal”

Evaluate Your Suffering

A. Suffering for the Wrong Reasons (4:15)

“troublesome meddler” – Someone who meddles into matters that belong to someone else.

Why do you believe Peter used this seemingly minor term in comparison to the previous terms?

Other verses that help us understand its meaning:

1 Thess. 4:11 “lead a quiet life...attend to your own business”

2 Thess. 3:11-12 “acting like busybodies...quiet fashion”

- How is the term to be applied in our society or in our place of employment? (1 Tim. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:1-5)

Evaluate Your Suffering

B. Suffering for the Right Reasons (4:16)

- “If anyone suffers as a Christian” his suffering qualifies for Holy Spirit blessing
- Suffering for Righteous livingas a Christian – “follower of Christ” (v. 16; Acts 11:26; 26:28)
- “To Glorify God” means to Praise Him for the privilege and honor of Suffering for His name.

How has this discussion affected your perspective on suffering?

How does the reality of Christ's suffering shape the concrete living of the Christian life?

What changes will you attempt to implement in your life as a result of studying this passage?