

Suffering for good

1 Peter 4:1-3

In Peter's epistles he teaches the topic of suffering 6 times.

Suffering seems to have different levels of intensities

Jesus himself was called the suffering servant, the man of many sorrows

The bible refers to the root word suffer 65 times

Peter denying Christ possibly was the place He learned about suffering.

1-Sitting outside the courtyard/servant girl
(you were one of those with Jesus) (I don't know what you are talking about)

2-Out at the gate someone noticed him & spoke out to those present (This man was with Jesus) (This time Peter denied it with an oath) I don't even know the man.

3-Other bystanders / group of people (you must be one of them we can tell by your accent)

The 3 attempts to deny Christ certainly led to it

But I believe this one event that Dr. Luke brings detail to..... the last of 3 denials that changes Peter's life for good.

Luke 22:61-62 NLT

V61 At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed **through Peter's mind:** "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."

V62 And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

How long did Peter suffer from this life changing eye contact from Jesus before it changed his life forever?

There are countless books of how to grow and become mature Christ followers most the books use the same important elements to promote growth.

1. Read your bible
2. Pray
3. Go to church
4. Fellowship with other believers

But you rarely see in the table of contents of these books about the critical need to

respond to suffering correctly.

Suffering is known as the well-worn path of pain

We will be looking at 3 separate sections this morning if your taking notes.

1-Suffering for **OUR own** good

2-Suffering for **Others** good

3-Suffering for the **Greater** good

1-Suffering for OUR OWN GOOD

1Pe 4: 1-3 NLT

V1 So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm **yourselves** with the same attitude he had, **and be ready to suffer, too.** For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.

If we respond to suffering correctly here are some of the benefits of Suffering

1. Suffering causes sin to loosen its grip on us

2. You know longer succumb to sin with the same ease

3. you might even tighten the boundaries of your life and reduce your personal vulnerability.

4. We don't chuckle or wink at sin in our lives suffering will make us sick of our personal sin.

5. After we suffer for a while, we have the tendency to think clearer because the pain has tempered us.

Head on collision

V2a You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.

A. You won't spend (invest anymore)

Time

Thoughts

Treasure

B. You will put more thought into how precious time really is

C. Selfish people are very lonely, empty people and suffering has a way to change that as well

D. Chasing our own desires is much like the hamster on the exercise wheel, getting nowhere accomplishing nothing.

E. Chasing our own desires always has an unfilled empty ending.

2. Suffering from our own mistakes and repercussions (the scares or wounds) from sin drives us back to having a deeper dependency for the quest of what God

wants from our lives.

If we don't run from suffering and turn into the pain of suffering, God will use it to help us reprioritize and re-evaluate what is important in your life.

When you go to a loved one's funeral, it's painful, but when it is over and you walk away to go home.. life itself and all by itself becomes so precious.

You have a different outlook on people, you realize how precious the people that still

remain in your life truly are.

Heb 5:8 NLT

8 Even though Jesus was God's Son, **he learned obedience from the things he suffered.**

V2b You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, **but you will be anxious to do the will of God.**

Just a few thoughts on the will of God mentioned in V2b

The will of God is not a distant unknow
inanimate object that only the super
Christians ever find.

Gods will for your life is now today.

So put your crystal ball away.

Stop looking in the mirror at yourself and
try to figure out how to look younger

Peter says in V2b you will be anxious to do
the will of God so

Start at home by praying for your spouse or
loved ones, ask God what you can do for
them that would give God the most glory.

Ask God what changes He wants you to

make right now in your life that would give **HIM** the most glory.

God saved you for specific purpose (He has given you time / talent / treasure, **what are you doing right now** that God made you to do?

Its like Peter knows us, all to well

V3, You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy--their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.

What past mistakes have you suffered for in

your life that has permanently changed you for the good.

You made a mistake or 2 but instead of running away you leaned into your wound and God has used it for good in your life

1Pe 4:12 NLT

12 Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

If you are suffering right now, you probably asked God why me When I recently asked God this same question , LORD WHY ME you know what HE said, (well why not).....

If me suffering:

1. Loosens sins grip on me

If me suffering:

2. will temper me or warn me to not fall into the same sin over and over.

If me suffering:

3. will cause me to **voluntarily** tighten the boundaries of my life to things that eventually cause me heartache and pain.

If me suffering:

4. Stoops me from just chuckling or winking at sin in my life and suffering makes me sick of sin.

If me suffering:

5. After I suffer for a while, I have the tendency to think clearer it seems to break away all of the debris.

If me suffering:

6. from my own mistakes and sin drives me back to having a deeper dependency on what God and what HE wants from my life.

So, when I cry out to God..... why me, HE says WHY NOT , Because it's a privilege from God from this day forward your life will never be the same and it's all because GOD LOVES you!

Brown recluse spider

Slow progression of the wound

Fever

Sick

Doctor

What I think about needles

Huge thick shots with lancane

Happy to get the shot over only to find out

I need 2 a week for month

The spider bite was extremely painful but
now I not afraid of shots anymore

2-Suffering for OTHERS GOOD

1Pe 3:13-17 NLT

V13 Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?

When things are going tuff and you chose to do the right thing other people can,

Hurt you,

Poke you

Jab you

They can throw you in the lion's den

But they cannot harm you because you will end up in heaven.

V14a But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.

Suffering for doing the right thing is a guarantee, especially in this day and age

But it is all about how we respond to it....

A medical issue that will not ever go away

A loss of a loved one

A broken heart given to you from one of your children

A marriage that has brought on pain

These life changing events are all essential to sever the cords that bind us here to this earth and redirect our hearts upward to heaven.

So here is some great council on how to respond

to suffering and how others benefit from your response.

V15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

Its all about how we respond isn't it

The presence or possibility of suffering for doing good should not make us shrink back from doing the right thing.

Your perseverance in difficulties your correct response to suffering actually gives those around you HOPE as it says in V15.

We are to sanctify Christ as LORD, KING, we should give a special place (sanctify) to God in our hearts at that time.

and always be ready to explain our faith (give a defense), for the HOPE that lies within us.

This is not a 20-page doctrinal statement
written on a scroll

Or reciting the 95 theses from Martin
Luther.

**It's a simple acknowledgment of a
transformed life**

I once was lost but now I am found, I once
was blind but now I see, because God loves
me so much, HE taught me to trust HIM
more when it hurts and because of HIS
LOVE for me I will never be the same.

Just on the other side of every difficult
circumstance in our lives is a testimony of

Gods' goodness.

Here is a quick question check list to evaluate how you are doing with your current response to suffering.

1. Ask the Lord... what are trying to teach me?

2. Do I need to make some changes in my life?

3. Am I suffering because of my own sin?

4. Is how I am handling this difficulty glorifying Christ?

V16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

The overarching truth in verse **V16** concerning suffering for the good of others is to be filled by the spirit of God and set apart for Christ at all costs.

Regardless of how I feel or what I want to do.

1Co 2:9 NLT

V9 That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

V17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

Sometimes suffering is what is best for me if that is what God wants because God is GOOD all the time!

3-Suffering for the Greater GOOD

1Pe 2: 19-23 NLT

V19 For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment.

The older I get the more I understand that pleasing God is the highest calling for all of us that claim to be Christ followers.

Pleasing God at work, makes you the best employee in the office

Pleasing God in our marriage makes us the best spouse

Pleasing God as a parent: gives our children the best chance to see and know the power of God is real and a personal relationship with God is the answer to all life's challenges

V20a Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong.

You don't get any credit, but you get a golden opportunity to make the correct changes, seek forgiveness for your wrong and live the rest of your life as a forever changed man.

V20b But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

Endure it patiently = don't run/remain/
hold fast in the pain/turn into the
wound/until you find fortitude

God is pleased with you, speaks of God
pouring HIS grace out on you like a flood to

give you the strength and the courage to endure.

At the end of ourselves.... Is a GREAT and powerful GOD!

When we break... God's, grace puts us back together, **but NEVER the same**

V21a For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

Earlier in the message we talked about

Gods will, being a now thing not an unknown future mystery.

So, whatever difficulty you are going thru right now today, Gods will for your life according to V21 is.... For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering,

YOU ASK.....How long... how far to what extent?

V21b.just as Christ suffered for you.

Remember people can hurt you, poke you

jab you, and they can throw you in the

lion's den but they can't harm you because

our last breath here on earth will be our 1st

breath in heaven.

2Co 1:5 NLT 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

V22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

When we are suffering, when we are hurt or wounded we are in a very vulnerable place to sin and forfeiting the grace of God being poured out on our lives.

Our sinful nature wants to retaliate, when we are insulted, we want to avenge ourselves, but before we close and get ready for communion

Speaking of Jesus

V23He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

You know my Mom was on oxygen for the last 5 years of her life everyday and all night to breath, a few of us in church today were in the room when she slowly couldn't breathe any longer, she stopped breathing, but you know when she stopped breathing, she stopped suffering, then I suffered for years over losing her.

SUFFERING IS A PART OF LIFE, there is no getting around it, but you can choose how you are going to respond to it.

Speaking of Jesus

V23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

Communion

1Pe 2:24-25 NLT

V24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

V25 Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

Take a moment to put your if your suffering this morn and put your case in the hands of God who always judges fairly

1Co 11:23-26 NLT

V23 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread

V24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body,

which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

V25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people-an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it."

V26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.