

# Disciple's Quest

*If you continue in My word, then you are  
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



August 8, 2021

1 Peter 4:12 – 19  
Facing the Fiery Trial

## Main Idea:

In this fallen world, the faithful Christian is certain to experience persecution. God, however, designs the resultant suffering to be a sanctifying force in the life of the believer as he obediently rejoices and seeks to live righteously in the face of hardship.

## Outline:

Caution – persecution and suffering in this life are certain

Command – the Christian is to rejoice even as he suffers

Three reasons why the Christian is able to rejoice in suffering:

- i. He possesses the perspective that God is sovereign and suffering is purposeful
- ii. He possesses the certain promise of the Lord's nearing return
- iii. He is presently blessed by God and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit

Commitment – the Christian must commit to living righteously as he suffers in order to persevere and experience blessing

### Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

- #1 What kind of persecution have you experienced as a result of your faith in Jesus?
- #2 When insulted or ridiculed for your faith, what is your usually your initial impulse, to compromise, or to stand firm and glorify God?
- #3 It has been suggested that our freedom persecution and unpopularity may be in large part the result of our not taking the gospel and Christ's claim on our lives seriously enough. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- #4 How would you explain to a new believer why God sometimes permits our persecution and suffering? What Bible passages might you take such a person to?
- #5 In the message, Pastor Vaughn said that suffering in the Christian's life is not the indication that God is absent, but rather, suffering is more likely the proof of God's presence and that His sanctifying work is taking place. Do you agree? Why or Why not?

Looking back on your life, can you point to a time/times when God refined and strengthened you through suffering?

- #6 How does the reality of Christ's nearing return enable the believer to rejoice in the midst of persecution and suffering?