

Suffer Well: How to Suffer As Christ-Followers

1 Peter 4:12-19

March 29, 2026 | Mercy Hill Church

Big Idea: We (Christians) should not be surprised by suffering but can face suffering with joy, trust in God and a commitment to keep doing good.

1. **Expect to Suffer for Christ (vv. 12, 15-16)**

- (cf. 1 Peter 4:6, 1:6-7, 2:19-23, 3:13-18; Mark 8:27-33, Acts 11:26, 26:28)
- **Open Doors 2026 World Watch List**
 - <https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/persecution/countries/>

2. **Rejoice & Be Glad as You Suffer for Christ (vv. 13-14, 16)**

- (cf. Matt 5:11-12, 1 Thess 5:18, Acts 5:41)

3. **Understand God's Purposes as You Suffer for Christ (vv.12-14, 17-18)**

- (cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2:20-James 1:2-4, Rom 5:3-5, Acts 5:41, Malachi 3:1-5, Matt 25:31-46, Prov 11:31)
- **Suffering as God' Refining "Judgment"** (v.12, 17-18)
- **Suffering as a Sign of Our Union with Christ** (vv.13-14)

4. **Trust God & Do Good as You Suffer for Christ (v.19)**

- (cf. 1 Peter 2:20-25, Matt 5:44, Rom 12:17-21, Gal 6:9, Luke 6:27-28)

Reflection Questions

- How do you typically react to difficulties & suffering? What might that reveal about your personal beliefs (i.e. about the world, God, others, etc.)? How does this morning's passage reframe how you see (and react) to suffering -- in particular, suffering for our faith?
- Which of these four points is more difficult for you to put into practice? Why?
- In what ways have you suffered on account of Jesus? If you never suffered for your Christian faith, what might that reveal about your Christian faith?
- What are some ways we can better encourage and support one another to suffer well as a church family for Christ?
- **Parent Corner:** What are some ways you can prepare, pray for and equip your child(ren) to suffer well for Jesus in the days and years to come? Do you ever share about your sufferings for Christ? Are there aspects of your child(ren)'s life you need to better entrust to the Lord?