

The **MOVED** | In the Same Way

THRIVING FAITH IN TRYING TIMES

Pastor Jonathan Pafford | March 22, 2026

1 Peter 4:1-6

Timeless Truth: *Jesus' victory over suffering strengthens His faithful followers to live courageously for God's will.*

HOW TO LIVE FOR GOD'S WILL IN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

1. Arm your thinking to align with Christ's mindset (vv 1-2)

Christ made it possible through His incarnation (Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16)

“arm yourselves” – to think as Christ did about obedience and suffering for what God deems as right.

“understanding” – the insight about the nature of God's dealings with people.

“...finished with sin...” – a clear separation from the slavery of sin - Romans 6:11-14

Doesn't mean sinless (James 3:2; 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:17-21)

Strive to live not for evil human desires, but for the will of God.

What is in the spiritual armory of your mind? What human desires are hindering you from arming your thinking with Christ's mindset to experience spiritual breakthroughs? What is God calling you to do to arm your mind with spiritual weapons (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)?

2. Aim your efforts to righteously run with Christ (vv 3-5)

Peter's list of unrighteous desires:

unrestrained behavior – living without any moral restraint

evil desires (lusts) – passions that violate God's objective moral commands

Drunkenness – a life dependent on fulfilling physical desires in a drunken state

Orgies and carousing – parties that promote wild immorality

lawless idolatry – immorality even forbidden by the laws of human governments.

“join” –

Peter's word choice points to a court sentencing and not a court hearing that determines if a person is guilty or innocent.

Where are you aiming your efforts to run with Christ? Who are you running with to seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness?

3. Advance the Gospel while suffering for Christ no matter the cost (v 6)

Who did Peter refer to when he wrote, “...the Gospel was also preached to those who are now dead”?

Flesh (sarki) and spirit (pneumati) - 1 Peter 3:18

How are you advancing the Gospel that was preached to you and you believed in Christ?