

**1 Peter 4**  
**What Suffering Does**  
**J.D. Farag**

1 Peter Chapter 4 today, verses 1-6 is our text. I'll ask those of you that are able to stand, you can join me and follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine.

The Apostle Peter by the Holy Spirit is writing and says, *verse 1*, **"Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, [Verse2 ] he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you [Verse3] have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do - living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.**

**They think it strange [Verse4] that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But [Verse5] they will have to give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the Gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit."**

Let's pray. If you would, please join with me. Father in Heaven, thank You for Your word and this portion that we have before us here in Your word this morning.

Lord, we once again readily admit that unless the Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide, we are not going to get it. We're not going to see what it is that You want to show us. We're not going to hear what it is that You want to speak to us. Our minds are going to wander. We're going to get distracted. And the enemy would love nothing more than to do that.

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So we're going to ask You, Lord, as only You can, for the Holy Spirit, who is really the only one that can get our attention and keep and hold our attention, to do that. Lord, settle our hearts and clear our ever-busy minds with all the voices clamoring and competing for our attention.

Lord, the only voice we want to hear today in our time together in Your word, is the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. So Lord, would You speak? Your servants are listening. We ask you for this in Jesus' name. Amen and amen.

You could be seated. Thank you.

So I want to talk with you today about suffering. Yay! Isn't that great, right after soon and very soon? Wow! What a killjoy. But actually, in a good, good way, I'm hoping that those who are really going through a difficult time will be encouraged because that's what we have before us today here in God's Word, specifically, as it relates to what suffering accomplishes in and through those times in our lives, when God will deem it necessary to allow the hardship and allow the difficulty.

He does so for a reason. It's always for our good and His glory. He's accomplishing so much in allowing the suffering and the hardship and the difficulty.

It's important to understand, and I know I probably remind you of this every week, but the Apostle Peter is writing to a persecuted people who are enduring extreme and severe suffering. And many of them are being killed in horrific and unspeakable ways. And it's to this people that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, writes.

And it's for this reason that he's seeking to encourage them, to give them hope, strength. It's to remind them, Hey, you

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guys, good's going to come out of this. I know it doesn't seem like it now. I know this is so difficult for you now, but God is doing something.

You don't see it yet maybe. But know by faith that God is accomplishing and bringing about grand and glorious things in allowing this suffering into your life.

I want to look at several of these reasons that we have in our text, starting with this first one in verse 1. And it's that suffering arms me spiritually.

Now, this word 'arms' is - you gotta be careful nowadays using words like that, trigger words, I guess, maybe you might say, but the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to use it. And he's using it connecting Christ's suffering to ours.

And it's interesting. Notice the specificity with which Peter writes this. He says, in the same way that Christ suffered, you too have the same (keyword) attitude.

Uh-oh. Does that mean I've got a bad attitude when I'm suffering?

No. Of course I do. Be armed with the same attitude of Christ in that suffering.

In other words, when we have fellowship with Christ's sufferings, as the Apostle Paul writing to the Philippians said in *Chapter 3:10*, it has the much-needed effect of steadying us, readying us, arming us with the same attitude reminiscent of what the Apostle Paul would also write to the Ephesian church in that well-known chapter, often quoted, sometimes, I'm sad to say, misquoted *Ephesians Chapter 6* concerning this spiritual armor.

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Isn't it interesting, that the metaphor of the helmet that protects the mind is salvation? Hmm. Things that make you go, hmm. Don't they? Makes me go hmm all the time. Hmm.

The helmet of salvation. To protect my mind from the doubts about my salvation, particularly in the midst of a fiery trial. When I'm in the midst of pain and suffering and hardship and difficulty, I've got to be really careful with what I allow into my mind. That's where the battleground is.

I need the helmet of salvation because make no mistake about it, the enemy is right there. He can't read our minds, but he can plant seeds of doubt in our minds. And he's right there every day, all day, a thousand times a day at the ready. Wow!

Doubt sets in and then the attitude changes. You know, the Proverbs say that **"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."** *Philippians Chapter 4*, the Apostle Paul, by the Holy Spirit basically says, **'You are what you think.'** The reason why you're so filled with fear and riddled with worry is because you're thinking on the wrong things.

So you want to worry about no thing? Thank God for everything and pray about anything and the **"peace of God that surpasses human understanding will keep your mind and heart in Christ Jesus."**

And then He goes on in verse 8 and he grocery lists all these things that we're to think on instead. We say in our day, you need an attitude adjustment.

Have you seen those big mallets that, you know, and they say attitude adjustment on them? You need an attitude adjustment.

Well, how am I going to adjust my attitude and be armed with the same attitude of Christ?

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Well, I need to think on these things: **"Whatsoever things are pure of a good report, noble. Think on these things because as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."**

Listen, if you allow the enemy to get away with that and start planting those seeds of doubt when you're in the midst of that fiery furnace of a trial, he'll take you down that road as far as you'll let him. And it can be endless.

And it's not long before I mean forget attitude. You're long past bad attitude. I mean, you're not even saved anymore as far as you're concerned.

God doesn't care. God doesn't love me. God's mad at me. I'm not going to go to church. I'm not going to read my Bible. I'm not going to pray. Woe is me.

(Singing )♫ Nobody knows ♫

Oh, he'll take you there if you want. He's got, you know, the reserve seating in that restaurant. He's just waiting for your RSVP.

We need to be armed. We need to be protected. And wouldn't you know that the very trial that you're in is the very thing you need to be protected and armed?

I mean, that's the way it works. It wish it didn't work that way. I wish it wasn't so that, you know, you pray for - be careful what you pray for, they say, right? Well, certainly that's the case when it comes to praying for patience. Be very careful when you pray for patience.

Lord, I need patience.

Oh, you need patience, do ya? All right. Game on.

Endurance. I need endurance.

Okay.

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Lord, how are You going to give me the endurance?

By giving you the trial.

No, that's not what I asked. I didn't ask for a trial. I asked for endurance.

But God's saying there's no way I can give you the endurance unless I first give you the trial because it's in and through the trial, in and through the suffering that you're going to be armed with the endurance that you need to get through that trial. That's how it works.

And isn't it true when you come out of a trial, you're looking back on that trial in retrospect. What your first thought is, Oh, wow! I can't believe God got me through that.

And God's like, Really? Ah, well, I did.

I was talking with a sister yesterday after the luncheon, and you know, it's that unbelief, right? Lord, I believe. But help my unbelief.

And then God just does exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond anything we could have ever thought or imagined. Over-answers our prayer, and we're just blown away.

And then what do we do? We're still in disbelief, but we're on the other side of the miracle. I can't believe it.

Wait a minute. You couldn't believe. You wouldn't believe that I could do it. Then I do it and you still don't believe? What am I going to do with you?

I don't know.

But isn't it true when you're on the tail end of a very difficult trial and I don't mean to make light of it. Humor is medicine, right? Laughter is medicinal, the Proverbs say. But you're going through that trial, and you make it through that trial, and you look back on that trial in retrospect, and

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though you would never want to go through it again, you would never for anything in the world trade what God did in you through that trial.

Oh, my goodness, Lord. Thank You. It's almost like a thank you. Don't do it again. Just thank You for that. That was good. I'm armed. I'm ready. I'm steady. Thank You. I'm good now, by the way. I will never pray for patience again. But it arms me.

And secondly, in verse 2 , it changes me. It changes the way I live. Perhaps it goes without saying but tasting from the cup of suffering can have a profound and powerful impact on how I live my life.

I think of David. He says it twice in that very well-known psalm, *Psalms 119*. I want to say it's verse 67 and 73. I could be wrong, but he basically says the same thing in a different way. But here's what he says.

It was good that God afflicted me.

It was?

It was good that God afflicted me. Because had He not afflicted me, I would have went astray. He brought me back. Before God afflicted me, I was straying. I was backsliding. And then God brought the affliction, the suffering. And it changed everything. And now David says, I keep His word. I'm back in His word.

Boy, suffering has a way of doing that, doesn't it? That trial hits... I mean, well, let's rewind before the trial. Pretrial. Okay. Pretrial.

I mean, you're doing great. And it shows up in your prayer life because your prayer sounds something along the lines of,

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Thank You, Lord. Bless this. Bless that. Bless them. In Jesus' name, amen. And off you go. That's pretrial.

Then adversity strikes. Your prayer life's a little bit different now. It's changed quite a bit. Now it's more like this: Oh, God! Oh! Oh, Jesus, Jesus.

Oh, I got your attention now, don't I?

Yeah. Oh, God!

Well, now that I got your attention, we need to make some changes. I tried, you know, the easy way. But you have to learn the hard way and you've got the scars to prove it.

I'll just speak for myself. I know that you're more spiritual than I am.

But what is it about us that we have to learn the hard way? Hey, if that's what it takes, God will allow it, and you'll thank Him for it, as hard as it is.

But here comes the affliction. Adversity strikes. It's *Ecclesiastes 7:14*. Let me paraphrase it. Solomon by the Holy Spirit writes, "**During times of prosperity, enjoy. But** [*I don't like that word*] **when** [*I don't like that word even more*] [*I wish it said 'if'*] **when adversity strikes.**"

Oh, wait, can we go back to "**during times of prosperity**"? I like the prosperity. I don't want the adversity. Can we just bask in the prosperity for a little bit longer before the adversity strikes?

No. "**When adversity strikes, stop and consider.**" Now I got your attention, God says.

Consider this: God allows the prosperity alongside with the adversity so that we will not discover anything about our future.



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Translated: We're not in control. God is. Oh, you've been kind of going to and fro, busy in your life and all the cares and the affairs of this life. And you kind of forgot about Me. I miss you. We haven't talked in a while.

It's kind of like the parent that's got a college student that needs money. The only time they call is when they need money. I wonder if we're not like that with the Lord. The only time we call is when we need something.

Oh, hey, I haven't heard your voice in a while. I think I'll send you a trial and I'll hear from you. Oh, good to hear from you. Long time no hear. Long time no talk.

When adversity strikes. So that we're not going about our lives just making these assumptions. That it's always going to be like that.

Because God can introduce the adversity the next day, after the prosperity. And when He does, we have to look to Him. We have to call on Him. We have to rely on Him.

We've talked about this before, but I am convinced without question, that prosperity is more dangerous than adversity. Because prosperity has this way of just kind of lullabying you to a spiritual slumber.

Hey, when things are good - let's be honest. Come on. When things are going good. Yeah, praise the Lord. It's good. I'm good. You good?

Not really, but apparently you are.

But then when adversity strikes. Well, now. I'm back on my knees. Now I'm praying again. Now I'm back in the Word again. Now I'm back...

You know how it is when you're in the Word of God and you've read that verse a thousand times before, right? But when

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you're in a trial, I mean, it's like when you went to bed the night before the Holy Spirit came, got your Bible or your app, whatever, and put your name in the text.

So you wake up early in the morning, will I rise up and seek Thee and you're in the Word. And you go, (Gasping sound). Just comes alive because **"the Word is alive, active, sharper than any two-edged sword."**

And you've read it a thousand times before, but now, oh! Again it's *Psalm 119*, all about the Word of God. It's like God is speaking directly to you.

Even when you're sitting under the teaching of God's Word. Hey, when things are going good, you know. Yeah, I really didn't get, you know, ministered to from the teaching. Of course that's your lot every week.

Well, let's pick on Kapono, if you don't mind. You know, the worship today wasn't, you know, I didn't... Except for ♪ Soon and Very Soo ♪ That was - I'll be singing that all day.

But yeah, you know, I didn't quite really, you know - I wasn't feeling it.

Oh, you weren't feeling it, huh?

Come back next week. A trial hits. I mean, you're like, (Singing loud) ♪ Soon and Very Soon ♪

Then I get up here, and you got to look at my mug, and I'm talking about this, and you're like on the edge of your seat.

What happened?

Oh, adversity struck.

What changed?

Adversity struck. Affliction. Suffering.

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Thank You, Lord. I didn't want it. I needed it. Thank You for it. I'm back.

Number 3, this is interesting: Suffering and affliction has this way of reprioritizing how you spend your time.

This is interesting for a number of reasons, not the least of which is how Peter, inspired by the Spirit, says, Hey, don't waste your time, you know, like you did before. And that's a very uncomfortable list, right? I'm not going to read it again, so relax.

But you go down that list and you think before you came to Christ, all of those things on that list, plus a lot more, by the way, that aren't on that list, I did all of them.

And what I would do to get the time that I spent and wasted on those things, if I could get that time back, man, that'd be great.

That's what pain and suffering does though, right? It has this way of bringing to the forefront that which is really important because it kind of resets you, reboots you, recalibrates you.

You know, there's a difference, and you've probably heard this over the years. It's very well said. There's a difference between what's urgent and what's important. And how often does the urgent cannibalize the important?

So you're running to and fro, putting out all these fires. And by the time you get done, you're just you're so tired. You're so exhausted.

Congratulations. The enemy has done exactly what he had hoped he would do. Get you doing this, doing that, doing this.

Is that important?

No, but it's urgent.

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I remember back in the day. This was a long time ago in a land far, far away. You know, the receptionist would take a message. You young people, just, we'll get back to you. Just give us a moment here.

They had these pink message pads, and they would use this thing called a pen and they would write who the call was from, their number to call them back, the time and the day that they called. And then there was the little area down below for the messages.

But if I'm not mistaken, and my memory serves me correctly, and I think it does, there was a box there that you could check that said 'urgent.' It would go to the top of the pile. And yes, there was a pile.

And you're looking at this pile and you're thinking to yourself, I am the pile. But once you realize that you've got this pile of messages, you have to prioritize which ones are important.

I know that one's got, you know, highlighted and checked, and red and stamped "Urgent, urgent, urgent!"

But what about this one over here? That's important.

Yeah, that might be urgent, but I would submit that the enemy is really good at urgent because he wants to take us away from the important.

I think the question we would all do well to ask ourselves when it comes to this matter regarding the way we spend our time: How does what I'm doing matter in light of eternity?

As one so aptly put it, "Soon one life will be past, and only that which was done for Christ will last."

I think it was the Apostle Paul, if I'm not mistaken, in *1 Corinthians Chapter 3*, he said, You know, there's going to be

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a fire, an all-consuming fire, and then a couple of piles, one pile's going to be all the - that's going to be a big pile - all the deeds done in the flesh, the wood, hay, and stubble. I'm going to have a big wood, hay, and stubble pile. And so are you too, so don't think you're more spiritual. That thing's going to burn, it's going to consume.

But there's going to be another pile, and it's going to be gold and silver and precious stones. And the same fire that turns the wood, hay, and stubble to dust is going to make that gold and silver and precious stones even more valuable.

What pile am I adding to? What am I spending my time on? Am I wasting my time?

Here's one more thing before we move on. You know, when you get older, and as a pastor, I've had really the privilege, as hard as it is, to be there at the bedside of somebody that is about to take their last breath in this life and their first breath in the presence of the Lord in eternal life.

And that kind of has a way of really prioritizing what matters and what doesn't matter.

And I have yet to be by the bedside of anybody that regrets not spending more time working at the office to make more money.

Conversely, I've been at the bedside, sadly, of many who have regretted, profound regret, that they didn't spend their life doing those things, which were more important. Because they're about to enter eternity. And when you enter eternity, all of this other stuff, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter.

A couple of weeks ago in the Prophecy Update, I think this is the Holy Spirit and it bears repeating. You know, in *Matthew 24*, when Jesus answers the disciples question about **"what will**

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**be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age?"** And Jesus says that first, first thing He says is, **"Let no man deceive you. For many counterfeits, false Christs will come in my name claiming that I am the Christ."**

And then He goes on after saying that first, He then goes on with, you know, **"there's going to be wars and rumors [Or threats] of wars and nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there's going to be famines and pestilence and earthquakes in just these [Different] various places [Big earthquakes].** And He likens all of them on that list to birth pains, which come in greater frequency and intensity.

Well, a couple weeks ago during the Prophecy Update, and it really hit me that the only thing on that list that is eternal is deception.

Everything else on that list is temporal. Earthquakes. Famines. Nation rising against a nation. Kingdom against kingdom. Pestilence. The only thing that has eternal ramifications on that list is deception.

Why?

Because it can cost you not your life, your eternal life. That's how serious it is.

So when you're at that door marked "eternity," boy, it gives you a different perspective on time, doesn't it?

I like how one said it. God did not create us for time. He created us for eternity. He created us for eternity.

Well, this fourth one, let's have a little bit of fun with this because we are different, aren't we? Well, they're a little bit different.

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Well, that's what suffering does. It makes me different. Now, not so easily seen at first read here is where Peter says that you're going to be seen as strange when you change.

In other words, they're like baffled and flabbergasted and like, why aren't you partying with us anymore?

Well, I'm not going to waste my time on that anymore because I'm a new creation in Christ and old things have passed away. And it's not that I'm... you know, I just have no desire. God has placed His desires on my heart. The Holy Spirit is in me now. I desire things I would have never in a million years thought I would ever desire.

When I got saved 40 years ago now, I didn't have a Bible. I got saved, I went to bed, I fell asleep praying. I woke up the next morning. I knew something was different. I was different.

My roommates: What happened? You're very different.

I know. I'm still trying to process this because I am not proud of this, but I had to start my day off with alcohol and the tobacco and the drugs and all the other stuff that came packaged with that.

And I went to reach for that and the Holy Spirit in me is like, Hey, you don't need that anymore. And I'm like, I don't. I was different.

And my roommates, well, they kicked me out. I was almost homeless until I found another apartment to move into, but they just they couldn't figure it out. They're like...

I remember one of them asked his mom. He's going, What happened to him? She's said, Oh, it's just a phase he's going through.

Yeah. 40 years later, I don't think this is a phase.

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I had two roommates. The other roommate, 15 years later calls me up. I've been praying for his salvation, both of their salvation. Calls me up. He says, I gave my life to Christ.

My response, being the godly, loving brother in Christ that I am. You know, instead of saying, Oh, praise the Lord, I was like angry. I'm like, Dude, what took you so long? 15 years, really?

It's like, click. Well, that didn't go well. That's a lot of wasted time.

Here's where I'm going with this and think this through with me.

So they're just baffled now. You're different. This is strange. You used to be the life of the party. Now you're a buzzkill. I guess they call it, whatever. I don't know. You don't party anymore.

And then Peter is careful to note that they're going to turn on you and start becoming verbally abusive towards you. Do you know why that is? Because they're convicted. They're convicted now.

And it's not one of these things where, wow, you've cleaned up your act. I'm going to get my act together.

You don't clean up your act. That's as absurd as taking a bath before you take a shower.

No, He cleans you from the inside out in the regeneration and the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, but, you're clean. You're light. And what does clean and pure and light do? It really exposes the contrast with the unclean and the dark and the evil.

Maybe I can say it this way. You make them look bad because you're different now.



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So what's their reaction? Well, they're going to cut you down. They're condescending because, see, they've got to keep bolstering themselves up. So what are they going to do? Tear you down.

I remember when I came to Christ. I'll just, you'll forgive the personal examples. I'm not going to use yours. Of course not without permission.

So I'll just speak for myself. I mean, it was brutal because, well, I was the life of the party, if you can imagine that. I had a lot of fun, you know? So mortifying thinking about all of that stuff. And I don't want to think about that. I'm supposed to think about things that are pure, remember?

But man, they turned on me, and it was good because what fellowship has light with darkness? But the ones that really hurt is when it's your family. You come to Christ and they're like, What's up with that? And then your family turns on you. You know, this can be a good thing because this is God's way of severing those unhealthy relationships because again, what fellowship hath light with darkness?

And He's going to introduce new friendships and relationships and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. But you're different.

There's one more thing here that I want to point out before we move on to this last one. And it's a biggie, by the way, this last one. But it has to do with those seeing how different we are. And when they see us go through these changes and they see us in the midst of suffering, they're watching us very closely.

I had, it wasn't one of the roommates, but he was another close party friend that, you know, I partied with. And he was just kind of watching and waiting, just kind of waiting for me

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to kind of come out of it, you know, come back and start partying again. He was in fact, he was trying to move it along, you know, tempting me. So one day there's a knock on my apartment door and it's him. Well, hey, how are you doing? So he gives me - Of course, we called them back then - I know this is very old fashioned - we called them a joint or you know, a doobie.

Yeah, I knew that wasn't going to go over well.

He says, Here. I'm like, Get that away from me. Get thee behind me, Satan. I had no desire for it. I invited him in. I just tried to share the Lord with him. And unbeknownst to me because I refused it, unbeknownst to me, he had slipped it into one of the drawers in the kitchen.

So he leaves. I'm in the kitchen. When I open the drawer, there it is! (Yelling) And I'm like, What am I going to... I flushed it down the toilet.

So he wanted to do a follow-up call. Hey, you see the little gift I left you? Yes, I sure did. What did you do with it? I flushed it down the toilet in Jesus' name.

And you know what's interesting? He never bothered me after that anymore. Well, we lost another one.

What's my point? My point is they notice the difference. And get this: They want it to be real. That test. Deep down inside, he didn't want me doing that. He wanted to test whether or not the difference in my life was real. And when he realized it was the real deal...

The world's watching us, Church. The world is reading our lives as a living epistle. What are they reading? What are they reading?

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Well, I saved the worst for last. Verses 5-6. Suffering spares me judgment.

This was actually kind of along the lines of what we were talking about in the Prophecy Update about the reality and proximity of eternity.

I think it's - I'm just as prone as the next guy to do it. But, you know, we talk about the rapture, we talk about Bible prophecy, we talk about all the promises in Scripture. But they're not necessarily real. I mean, we know them, we quote them, we say them, we even sing them.

Well, I'll just take - I love that song, again, Kapon, thank you so much for ruining the rest of my day. I won't be able to get it out of my mind, but it's a good thing: ♪ Soon And Very Soon ♪. Okay, let's just take that by way of an example. (Singing) ♪ Soon and very soon we are ♪

Do we really believe that? Do you realize that's really going to happen? It's not just a song we sing. It's not just a Scripture we memorize. And it's not just a quote we repeat.

It's really, really, really going to happen. Really. Did I say really? Really, really, really. Yeah. Very deeply profound.

That's what Peter's saying here. He draws upon what he's said in the previous chapter concerning Jesus descending into Hades and preaching victory over the demons and death.

But do you realize what the implications of that are? We're spared from the judgment that is coming. Because judgment is coming. This is really going to happen. That should impact us, shouldn't it?

Shouldn't that impact how we see people? I mean, if we really believe that we're going to be caught up in the rapture and

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those that are left behind are going to endure the most horrific seven years in human history. Unspeakable horror.

If we really believe that and we really believed and understood the judgment that's coming, how would that impact us? You know, we - I'll try not to belabor it. Just bear with me.

We say I'm saved.

Cool. From what?

Have you ever stopped to think about that? I'm saved from eternity in hell. Oh, well, that's kind of a game-changer. I'm saved from the judgment, the wrath of God that is coming upon a Christ-rejecting world. I'm going to be spared of that. And it's really going to happen and it's really coming.

I forget who it was. It's quite graphic, but it's so true. He, you know, fictitiously imagines being able to take people and just do a fly over, very briefly, over hell.

Just here's what's coming. Just let them catch a glimpse of what awaits and see what that might do. That could change your mind. It's been said that God can't change our heart until we first change our mind. He'll never force Himself on us.

But I wonder. Maybe not so much even just the lost, let's take the Christian on a free fly over. Limited time only. Let's see what we're being spared from. What kind of an impact would that have?

We do err greatly when in our suffering in this present life, we forget that what awaits us is eternal life. And the sufferings of this life are not even worthy to be compared with the glory that awaits.

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You know, when you think about it, it should make you so thankful. And that's where the word 'thank' comes from, 'think,' by the way. This is *Philippians 4:6-8* again, think and thank.

When you think about it, you realize how much you have to be thankful for. And we just start going down the list. Everything big and small that you have to be thankful for. This should be at the top of the list. Thank You, God. I mean, right now it's not necessarily at the forefront, but there's a day coming, I believe that day is here, when actually this is all that's going to matter.

Thank You, God, I'm saved. I'm spared of this. And one last thing and we're done. For all eternity. All eternity.

Try to wrap your mind around that. You'll never die. You're going to live forever in perfection, in glory with Jesus. No more pain. No more sorrow. No more death. No more crying. We've been spared of all of that. Saved from all of that.

So yeah, you're suffering now, 75 years, let's say 80 years. Compared to eternity and what you're being spared of? Maybe it takes the suffering to bring about the appreciation for the glory that awaits.

Kapono, come on up. I'll have you stand; we'll pray.

Loving, heavenly Father, we're I mean, it seems hollow, almost cliché in a way, but we're just so grateful to You, Lord. Thank You for salvation. Thank You for eternal life, the gift of eternal life that You paid for. Thank You for sparing us from the judgment that awaits this world.

Lord, even thank You that the suffering of this world is nothing in comparison to what awaits us in eternity. Lord, I just want to pray for anyone that might be here today or watching online, and they're just really going through a very

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difficult time. And, You know, their pain, You know their heart, You've heard their cry, and You're going to hearken unto the voice of their cry.

I pray, Lord, that You would encourage them in the midst of their suffering. Remind them of all that You're doing in and through their suffering as only You can. Thank You, Lord. We love You, Jesus, so much. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.