



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED

UNCOMMON PURSUITS: EPISODE 9 OF 10

1 Peter 4:12-19

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

*If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?*

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

THREE KINDS OF SUFFERING:

COMMON SUFFERING - BECAUSE I AM A HUMAN BEING

CARNAL SUFFERING - BECAUSE I SIN

CHRISTIAN SUFFERING - BECAUSE I AM A BELIEVER

1. REALIZE IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. I Peter 4:12

(Jesus) No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15:20

We are not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces. Ephesians 6:12 (GN)

2. REJOICE WHEN IT DOES HAPPEN

But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ... I Peter 4:13a

REASONS TO REJOICE

- **IT DRAWS ME CLOSER TO CHRIST.**

...these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterwards you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory.

I Pet. 4:13b (LB)

- **IT MEANS GOD'S SPIRIT CAN BE SEEN IN MY LIFE**

When people insult you because you follow Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of God is with you. I Peter 4:14 (NCV)

- **IT MEANS GOD CAN TRUST ME**

The apostles (were) full of joy that God considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus' name. Acts 5:41 (GN)

3. REFUSE TO BE ASHAMED.

If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. I Peter 4:16

Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Matthew 5:10 (GN)

4. REMEMBER THE REWARD I'LL RECEIVE.

These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever! 2 Corinthians 4:17 (LB)

Since we are God's children... if we share in Christ's suffering, we will also share in his glory. Romans 8:17 (GN)

5. REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD!

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. I Peter 4:19

I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is God's powerful method of bringing all who believe it to heaven ... everyone is invited to come to God in this same way. Romans 1:16 (LB)

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