

C3:16
4.1.24
I Peter 4:12-19

I Peter 4:12-19 Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God^[a] rests on you. ¹⁵ Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler.^[b] ¹⁶ But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God in having that name.^[c] ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God?

¹⁸ And **if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?**^[d]

¹⁹ So then, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good

I. We should expect suffering 4:12

Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you.

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.

II Tim 3:12 Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

I John 3:13 So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] if the world hates you.

II. We should respond well to suffering 4:13-14

¹³ Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God^[a] rests on you.

We have rewards for suffering

Luke 6:22-23 What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. ²³ When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

A season of suffering is a small assignment when compared to the reward. Rather than begrudge your problem, explore it. Ponder it. And most of all, use it. Use it to the glory of God.

Max Lucado

We are imitating Christ

John 15: ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. ²⁰ Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

III. We must always suffer for the right reason 4:15-18

¹⁵ Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God in having that name. ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God?

¹⁸ And **if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?**

I Thess 4:11 Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before.

II Thess 3:11-12 et we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. ¹² We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living.

IV. We must trust 4:19

¹⁹ So then, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good.

Suffering prepares you by training you to trust God and know that He is always at work in your life.

Charles Stanley

Faith boosters?

Pray

Seek guidance and comfort in the scriptures

Lean on believers!

A suffering person does not need a lecture - he needs a listener. Billy Graham

Remember the ultimate purpose of trials

Pushes us to maturity

James 1: ² Dear brothers and sisters,^[a] when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Proves the real deal

Matt 13:5-6 Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died.

Close: I've never heard anyone say the really deep lessons of life have come in times of ease and comfort. But, I have heard many saints say every significant advance I've ever made in grasping in the depth of God's love and growing deep with Him, have come through suffering.

John Piper