

WE STAND FIRM

A STUDY OF 1 PETER

Don't Be Surprised

1 Peter 4:12-19 | October 11, 2026

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.

1 Peter 4:12-19

As we trust God through difficulties, trials can refine and strengthen our faith. (1:7; 4:12)

If we belong to Jesus, we shouldn't be surprised when we suffer like Jesus.

How to rejoice in hard times (Philippians 4:4-8)

- >> Thank God for what He's given.
- >> Remember what God says is true.

When life gets hard, how can we stand firm?

1. Expect it.

Following Jesus doesn't guarantee an easy life. It guarantees a faithful God in the middle of a hard life.

2. Examine it.

Is this the cost of following Jesus, a hardship I didn't cause, or a choice I need to take responsibility for?

3. Entrust it.

Commit yourself to your faithful Creator and continue to do good. (4:19) Have you surrendered your life to Jesus?

We stand firm, knowing that God is with us and that Heaven awaits us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fall Fest: October 11 at 4:00-6:00 PM

Missions | What in the World is God Doing? October 24 at 9:30 AM

Thinking About Baptism: October 25 at 9:00 AM

Download our WCChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!



STUDY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED:

Think of something in life you knew would be hard but turned out to be harder than you expected. It could be parenting, marriage, a new job, or anything else. What was it, and what surprised you most about it?

A DEEPER DIVE:

- » Peter tells us not to be surprised by fiery trials, yet our instinct is often to interpret hardship as a sign that something has gone wrong. What false expectations about the Christian life might be making your current struggles harder to bear?
- » Peter says in 1 Peter 4:13 that we participate in the sufferings of Christ and should rejoice in that. What does it mean to you personally that your suffering can be a point of union with Jesus rather than a sign of his absence?
- » Paul's instruction in Philippians 4 calls believers to rejoice always and think on what is true. Which of the truths Peter lists in his letter do you most need to anchor yourself to right now, and why?
- » There are different ways we suffer; suffering for the name of Christ, suffering from the brokenness of the world, and suffering because of personal sin. Which category does your current trial fall into, and how does that distinction shape how you should respond?
- » Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told the king they would trust God even if he did not deliver them, how does that kind of unconditional trust challenge or reshape the way you typically approach God when you are in the middle of a fiery trial?
- » In what ways have you experienced or failed to recognize God's presence with you in the hardest season of your life?
- » Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:19 that those who suffer according to God's will should continue to do good. What does "continuing to do good", look like practically when you are exhausted by the weight of your circumstances?
- » In Revelation 21, God promises to wipe away every tear and make all things new. How does keeping that eternal perspective in view change the way you endure the temporary trials of life in a broken world?

NEXT STEPS:

Examine Your Suffering. Set aside a few quiet minutes this week to honestly ask yourself: What am I facing right now, and why? Is it the cost of following Jesus? The brokenness of this world? A consequence of a past decision? Ask God to give you clarity, and then respond accordingly, whether that means praising Him, repenting, or simply releasing blame you have been carrying unfairly.