

I. Reality of Suffering

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery trial** when it comes upon you to test you, **as though something strange were happening to you.**

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you: **‘A servant is not greater than his master.’** **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

1 Peter 1:6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, **you have been grieved by various trials**

1 Peter 2:19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, **one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly**

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should **suffer for righteousness’ sake**, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled

1 Peter 5:10 And **after you have suffered a little while**, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

“In secular culture the meaning of life is to be free to choose what makes you happy in this earthly life. Suffering destroys that meaning. And so, in the secular view, suffering can have no meaning at all. It can’t be a chapter in your life story- it is just the interruption or even the end of your life story.”

Tim Keller

II. Rejoicing in Suffering

1 Peter 4:13 ¹³ **But rejoice** insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

A. We can rejoice because we are in Christ

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice insofar as **you share Christ’s sufferings**, that you may also rejoice and be glad when **his glory is revealed.**

B. We can rejoice because we can love Christ more

1 Peter 4:13-14 But **rejoice insofar** as you share Christ’s sufferings, **that you may also rejoice** and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

- C. We can rejoice because we are becoming more like Christ
1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery trial** when it comes upon you **to test you**, as though something strange were happening to you.
- D. We can rejoice because we can glorify Christ
1 Peter 4:15-16 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
- E. We can rejoice because we are in the will of God
1 Peter 4:17-18 For it is **time for judgment to begin** at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸
 And
 “If the righteous is scarcely saved,
 what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”
- Genesis 50:20** As for you, **you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

III. Resources in Suffering

- A. His Spirit of glory rests on you
1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because **the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you**.
- B. His faithfulness is with you
1 Peter 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a **faithful** Creator while doing good.

Conclusion

Discussion questions

1. Please share about a difficult time that you had this past year?
2. What are different ways that people can cope with pain?
3. How do you normally deal with challenging times?
4. What can we learn from 1 Peter 4:12-19 that can help us to have faith in the fiery trials?