

Lost and Found

Suffering

In my season of suffering, remember:

There may be suffering here, but victory there will be victory there.

1 Pet. 1:3-7 Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all - life healed and whole. I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

Suffering proves my faith is genuine.

1 Pet. 1:7 ...genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine.

Do what's right.

1 Pet. 2:19-21 There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God. This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came His way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.

1 Pet. 2:19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience towards God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully...²⁰when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. ²¹For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps... (KJV)

1 Pet. 2:22 He never did one thing wrong, not once said anything amiss.

Don't respond.

1 Pet. 2:23 They called Him every name in the book and He said nothing back. He suffered in silence...

Trust God.

1 Pet. 2:23 He suffered in silence, content to let God set things right.

The right response to suffering creates opportunities.

1 Pet. 3:14-17 If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a

second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath. It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. (The Message)

Jesus' suffering is my victory.

Suffering does not mean I have missed the will of God.

^{1 Pet. 4:19} So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

I can suffer victoriously because suffering won't last forever.

^{1 Pet. 5:9-11} You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are! - will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, He does. (The Message)