

**1 Peter Series “Certain Suffering”**  
**1 Peter 4:12-19**  
**November 7, 2021**

1 Peter 4:12-19 (ESV)

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. 13 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. 15 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. 17 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?”[c]

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Don't be surprised.

Rejoice as you share Christ's sufferings because you are like him.

George Matheson Quote

“There is a time coming in which your glory shall consist in the very thing which now constitutes your pain. Nothing could be more sad to Jacob than the ground on which he was lying, a stone for a pillow. It was the hour of his poverty. It was the season of his night. It was the seeming absence of his God. The Lord was in the place and he knew it not. Awakened from his sleep he found that the day of his trial was the dawn of his triumph.”

Rejoice because you belong to him.

Rejoice because you will be with him.

Don't be put to shame for suffering creates opportunities to display the worth of Jesus.

Don't be confused about why we suffer.

Malachi 3:2-3 (ESV)

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

Malachi 4:1-2 (ESV)

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them.”

Suffering purifies the Christian.

Hebrews 5:7-9 (ESV)

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.”

To follow Jesus is to follow Jesus into his sufferings.

Romans 8:16-18. (NLT)

16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. 17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Our sufferings in Christ find their significance in Christ’s sufferings. As we will share in his glory, we will share in this suffering.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
  - Have you ever suffered because of your faith? What were those circumstances.
  - Why do you think Christians are surprised when “fiery trials” come?
- How do trials provide an opportunity for your faith to be tested? How does the process of refining a precious metal offer insights into Christian suffering? What is the hopeful outcome of the refining process?
- Read Hebrews 5:7-9. What are your thoughts regarding Jesus being “made perfect?” How did his suffering become a source of salvation?
  - Is there a situation in which you feel unsure how to express your faith? Any area where you are experiencing resistance? Invite your Grow Group to pray for you in that situation so you can express the worth of Jesus and your belonging to Him?