



I Peter 4:12-19 (NIV)

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgement to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, “if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” So, then those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Suffering without Surprises
I Peter 4:12-19

I. We must learn to *Expect* suffering.

Verse 12 – “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.”

Acts 9:16 (ESV)

“For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Philippians 1:29 (NIV)

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.”

Randy Alcorn

“A faith that leaves us unprepared for suffering is a false faith that deserves to be lost. If you base your faith on a lack of affliction, your faith lives on the brink of extinction and will fall apart because of a frightening diagnosis or a shattering phone call. Token faith will not survive suffering.”

II. We must Learn to *Value* Suffering

Verse 13-14 – “But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

Suffering Creates a three-fold opportunity:

- The opportunity to Rejoice
 - Suffering Draws us into Closer Fellowship with Christ.

Richard Wurmbrand

“Christians are meant to have the same vocation as their King—that of cross bearer. It is this conscience of a high calling and a partnership with Jesus which brings gladness in tribulations which makes Christians enter prisons for their faith with the joy of a bridegroom entering the bridal room.”

- Suffering helps us Look Forward to the Coming of Christ
- Suffering helps us Deepen our Dependence on the Holy Spirit

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (ESV)

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength...”

- The Opportunity to Reflect

Verse 15-16 – If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

- The Opportunity to Rest

Verse 19 – “So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”