

Suffering as A Christian **I Peter 4:12-19**

Introduction- Story of Peter , Jesus said, “*Satan has desired to have you*”...So Peter is now writing to strengthen the brethren. Why? A fiery trial was coming. What? Persecution.

Four things to remember:

I. Remember that Suffering is a Part of the Christian Life (vs. 12)

- There was a time when Peter thought it was not.
- Throughout history God’s people have suffered.

- Does the trial mean that God no longer loves me? No! (vs. 12) Beloved.
- Does it mean God’s not in control? No! **Illus.-** Job and Rom. 8:28.

Every adverse experience when rightly received can carry its quota of good. Bodily pain and weakness cause us to feel our frailty. Perplexity reveals our lack of wisdom. Financial reverses point up how limited our resources. Mistakes and failure humble our pride. All things can be included in the term “good”.

-A. Sanders

So don’t think it strange, expect suffering.

II. Remember To Rejoice (vv. 13-14)

- **Literally**, “be constantly rejoicing!” Note in vv. 13-14, “rejoice,” “be glad,” “exceeding joy,” “happy are ye.”
- **Jesus said in Matt. 5:11-12**, “**Blessed are ye when...**” “Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great....”
- **James 1:2**, “My brethren, count it all a joy when you fall into different trials.”
- **Illus.-** In the book of Acts 5:41.

But you say it’s hard! Yes! So, how?

A. Our suffering means fellowship with Christ (vs. 13). Phil. 3:10, Daniel 3

- B. Our suffering means glory in the future** (vs. 13). See Rom. 8:18 But note, God will not replace suffering with glory; rather He will transform suffering into glory.
- C. Our suffering brings to us the ministry of the Holy Spirit** (vs. 14). Illus.- Acts 7 “Stephen”. So we don’t have to wait for heaven to experience His glory, we can now! II Cor. 12, Paul’s thorn.
- D. Our suffering enables us to glorify God** (vs. 14). God is glorified in our weakness.

III. Remember to Examine Your Life (vv. 15-18)

Be careful, there are dangers. (John 9) But “the fiery trial can bring more light by which we can see our lives in light of God’s holiness.” Remember it’s God’s refining process! Ask yourself, “*Am I suffering because of sin?*” (vs. 15).

IV. Remember to Commit Yourself to God (vs. 19)

- A. Suffering in the will of God?** (vs. 19). Heb. 11 “others”. *The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.*
- B. Commit.** Literally “deposit” or “entrust”. Illus.- To put in a bank for safe keeping. Jesus on the cross, see. 2:19-23.
- C. Keep doing well** (vs. 19)- “in doing well”, be cheerful (vs. 13), be content (vs. 14), be committed (vs. 19).
- D. He’s faithful** (vs. 19). Note: Two ways, old creation/new creation.

See 5:6-11. “*He careth for you.*”

Does Jesus Care?

by Frank E. Graeff

**Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth and song
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?**

**Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,**

Does He care enough to be near?

**Oh yes, He cares- I know He cares!
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.**