

Friday

Please read 1 Peter 4:19. Meditate on this verse today, perhaps reading it in several different versions.

In what area of your life do you feel like you're suffering right now?

How can you commit yourself to God in this suffering?

How can you continue to do good in this suffering?

Thank God today for the truth that suffering has worth. Talk to Him about the areas where you feel you are suffering. Pray that you'll grow deeper in your desire to be committed to Him and that you will not shy away from doing good.

Saturday

Please read 1 Peter 5:1–7 in preparation for this weekend's sermon. What encourages you in this passage and why?

Please pray for the services this weekend. Thank God for the work He is doing in this church. Please pray for the Jesus Journey which begins this fall. Pray that God will smooth the final steps of preparation and that God will use this church study to bring us all closer to Jesus and make us more like Him.



TWIN LAKES CHURCH
www.tlc.org

LIVING HOPE

PART 9

Hope in Suffering

AUGUST 25 & 26, 2012 • MARK SPURLOCK
1 PETER 4:12–19

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

How to react to suffering...

1. _____
Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. *1 Peter 4:12*
2. _____
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.
1 Peter 4:13–14

Why rejoice?

- My sufferings will be _____
...so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. *1 Peter 4:13b*
For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. *2 Corinthians 4:17*
- My faith will be _____
...you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. *1 Peter 4:14b*
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **These have come so that your faith** — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — **may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.** *1 Peter 1:6–7*

3.

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. *1 Peter 4:15–16*

Three Kinds of Suffering

- _____
...grief in all kinds of trials *1 Peter 1:6b*
- _____
...how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong? *1 Peter 2:20a*
- _____
...if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed. *1 Peter 4:16a*

For it is time for judgment 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?” *1 Peter 4:17–18*

4.

So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should **commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.** *1 Peter 4:19*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read *1 Peter 4:12–19*. What did you learn about reacting to suffering in the sermon?

Think back over the last few times you felt as though you were suffering. What was your reaction to suffering?

In verse 12, Peter reminds us not to be surprised when suffering and trials come your way. What does it mean, practically, to be ready for trials and suffering?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Thank Him for telling you the truth about suffering. Pray that you will live well the balance between faith and readiness for suffering.

Tuesday

Please read *1 Peter 4:13–14*. It’s one thing to be instructed to be ready for trials but it’s an entirely different thing to be told to rejoice in suffering!

How do you think rejoicing impacts your experience of suffering?

What does it look like to rejoice in suffering?

It’s interesting to note the goal of rejoicing in suffering, it’s not so the world will think nothing bad happens to Christians, it’s so we can be “overjoyed” when God’s glory is revealed! How could this difference impact your actions in suffering?

Thank God today for His grace and peace — even in suffering. Pray that as you go through times of suffering you’ll focus on the work of God in your life in the midst of your trials.

Wednesday

Please read *1 Peter 1:6–7* and reread *1 Peter 4:13–14*. List all the reasons Peter gives us to rejoice even in suffering.

How have you seen suffering deepen your faith in the past?

How have you seen past suffering show God’s glory to others?

Thank God today that suffering is not in vain. Talk to Him about your current struggles. Pray that God will deepen your faith and that your life will reflect His glory.

Thursday

Please read *1 Peter 4:15–18*. Of the three types of suffering we talked about (common [*1 Peter 1:6b*], carnal [*1 Peter 2:20a*], and Christian [*1 Peter 4:16a*]), which have you most often experienced?

How could recognizing the source of your suffering help you in your reaction to suffering?

Is there an area of your life where you consistently find yourself suffering because of your own choices? What is one step you can take this week to move away from that choice?

Thank God today for His grace and mercy, even when we make choices that lead to suffering. Talk to Him about any areas you’re struggling with that are producing suffering in your life. Pray for the desire and willingness to obey and move in the right direction.



Memory Verse

So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. *1 Peter 4:19*