

## **1 Peter “Who Do You Say That I Am?”**

Week # 7 1 Peter 4:12-19

In 4:12-13, Peter gives two instructions regarding trials. What are they?

4:12

4:13

What does our surprise at fiery trials reveal about our expectations?

Look up the following verses and note what each says about trials and expectations:

John 15:18-21

Philippians 1:29

Why does Peter say we should rejoice in persecution (4:13-14)?

Read James 1:2-4 and note how James expands on Peter's words.

Peter says that “the Spirit of glory and of God rests” upon [those insulted for the name of Christ]” (4:14). What do you think he means? Look up the following verses to help with your answer:

Matthew 10:17-20

John 14:16-18

John 14:26

Romans 8:26

2 Corinthians 3:5-18

Look at 4:15. Peter gives examples of reasons we might suffer deservedly. Is there a sense in which this whole list could describe of any of us? Or does Peter mean it as an exaggerated list?

Why might we be ashamed to suffer for Christ (4:16)?

What is Peter's point in 4:17-19 regarding the judgment of the righteous and the unrighteous? Look up the following verses to help.

Proverbs 11:31

1 Corinthians 11:32

Keeping in mind that this is a letter of encouragement, how does Peter want us to be encouraged by contemplating the last judgment?

Is your first response to suffering to “commit yourself to your faithful Creator and continue to do good” (4:19)? What wrong thinking can cause us to have a different reaction?”

How has God used suffering in your life as a way of deepening your faith in him? What did you learn about him in the midst of your suffering?

## **HOMEWORK**

What can you begin doing to prepare yourself for suffering? How can you begin cultivating habits that will help you to remain faithful when things get difficult?

### **LIVE IT OUT**

**Pray:** Wherever you sense doubt, ask the Lord to strengthen you and help you to persevere when difficulties arise that challenge your faith in him.

**Encourage:** If there's a fellow believer in your life struggling today, reach out to them and offer your encouragement by reminding them of God's faithfulness.

**Serve:** Look for a practical way to serve your local church with the gifts God has given you this week. If you do not yet have a clear idea of your gifts, reach out to another believer this week and talk about that with him or her.

**When suffering comes, we are told to do two things— praise God and continue to do good. That's not something that we'll magically decide to do unless we're cultivating those habits when things are going well. Like an athlete training for an important match, we as Christians ought to prepare ourselves to**

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

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*Just like the cold  
can move you  
closer to the fire,*

*hard things*

*can move you  
closer toward God.*

