

The Believer's Response to Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

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Peter 4:12-19

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

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

Four Instructions that the Early Believers
were to Follow in Light of their Suffering:

1. _____ suffering. (1 Peter 4:12)
2. _____ in suffering. (1 Peter 4:13-14)
 - A. Our suffering can mean _____ with Christ. (v. 13a)
 - B. Our suffering can mean _____ in the future. (v. 13b)
 - C. Our suffering can mean glorifying the _____ of Christ. (v. 14a)
 - D. Our suffering can mean the _____ of God's Spirit. (v. 14b)
3. _____ on your suffering. (1 Peter 4:15-18)
 - A. Am I suffering for the _____? (v. 15)

BIBLICAL APPROACHES TO SUFFERING (by Phillip Yancey)

STAGE 1: A person living _____ should never _____.

STAGE 2: Good people do endure _____, but they will always find _____.

STAGE 3: All things _____ together for _____.

STAGE 4: _____ people may be called to _____.

STAGE 5: _____.

B. Am I _____ of Christ, or am I _____ Christ? (v. 16)

C. Am I seeking to _____ the _____? (vv. 17-18)

4. _____ on God when you suffer. (1 Peter 4:19)