

**Series "Living God Gives A Living Hope"**  
**"When Suffering Strikes"**  
**1 Peter 4:12-19**  
**Study-18**

**James 1:2-4**

The word "suffer" or "suffering" is used **4X** in our passage.  
In the New Testament, the word "trial" means "to prove by testing."

Our passage on suffering is not a repetition of what has already been said in **1 Peter 3:13-4:6** which spoke about the inflictors; how we were to respond to them. Whereas this passage speaks about the Christian's inner hope and purpose for suffering.

**1 Peter 3:13-5:14 – God's Grace and Suffering.**

**Thought Of The Passage:** "Suffering Is Inevitable. What Matters Is That It Is For Righteousness And That We Rejoice, Committing Ourselves To God."

**1. Verse 12 – Expect To Suffer**

**2. Verses 13-14 – Exult In Suffering**

**3. Verses 15-18 – Evaluate Suffering**

**4. Verse 19 – Enlist Your Suffering**

**1. Verse 12 – Expect To Suffer:**

1 Peter 4:12 – "Beloved," – Context: Peter left off with the believers suffering at the hands of the nonbelievers; they needed to focus on the end of all things, and live for eternity, 1 Peter 4:11.

"Beloved," – It means to "be prized and valued, dearly and very much loved." Suffering is a mark of discipleship, something that is guaranteed for the follower of Christ, Matthew 3:17.

"do not be surprised" – "surprised or astonished." "at the fiery ordeal among you," – Acts 9:16.

"fiery ordeal" – "painful trial, fiery trial, burning, an exposure to the action of fire." "among you, which comes upon you for your testing," – to prove you! 1 Peter 1:6-7 – purify, remove impurities.

Suffering will not destroy us, it will purify us!

John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29

## **2. Verses 13-14 – Exult In Suffering:**

1 Peter 4:13 – “but” – “in contrast to being surprised, and confused over a trial.” “to the degree” – “the Christian’s reward is proportionate to our earthly sufferings.”

“that you share the sufferings of Christ,” – These are the sufferings that Christ endured that we endure now as a Christian.

“keep on rejoicing,” – Verses 13-14, Peter uses the word “rejoice” or a synonym 4X – rejoicing, rejoice, exultation, glory, Romans 8:17.

### **There are 3 reasons we can keep on rejoicing in our sufferings:**

**1. Sufferings Deepen Our Fellowship With Christ:** “you share the sufferings of Christ,” – The word “share” – translated as “fellowship,” John 15:20.

**2. Sufferings Deepen Our Joy And Prepare Us For His Return:** “so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.” – Suffering gets our focus on the glorious day of His appearing. The phrase “rejoice with exultation” – “to leap and skip with delight” and “lively joy,” 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8.

1 Peter 4:14 – “If you are reviled for the name of Christ,” – the word “reviled” – “to defame, to insult, rail at, to cast in one’s teeth, get in your face, to demote.” “you are blessed,” – Jesus was treated this way, Mark 15:32; Matthew 5:11.

**3. Sufferings Deepen Our Reliance On The Holy Spirit:** “you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

“Spirit of glory” – or “Spirit of God.” “and of God rests on you.” – God’s glory – “is His weighty reputation and is really the sum total of all His attributes,” 1 Kings 8:11.

“rests on you.” – “to give relief, refreshment,” Acts 1:8 – Stephen’s, Acts 6:15.

## **3. Verses 15-18 – Evaluate Suffering:**

1 Peter 4:15

Peter wants us to ponder why we’re going through problems. **Peter gives us 3 possibilities behind our suffering:**

- 1. Verse 15 – I May Be Suffering As A Result Of My Sin:** “Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;”

“a murderer,” – the unlawful taking of a life, (Capital Crime);  
“or thief,” – a stealer (Capital Crime); “or evildoer,” – all crimes, criminal, a bad doer; “or a troublesome meddler;”  
Only time used in the NT, “busybody, one who oversees others, one who meddles in things that do not concern him,”  
1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12.

“troublesome meddler;” – is in the same list as “murderer,”  
Proverbs 26:17.

- 2. Verse 16 – I May Be Suffering As A Result Of My Faith:**

1 Peter 4:16 – “but if anyone suffers as a Christian,” – When the word “Christian” was first used, it was a term of contempt, Acts 11:26.

“he is not to be ashamed,” – “dishonored;” This was personal for Peter because he was ashamed of Christ when he denied him 3X.

“but is to glorify God in this name.” – The Name “Christian.”

Later on, Peter and John are great models of not being ashamed, Acts 5:41.

- 3. Verses 17-18 – Suffering Is Timely And Needed:** 1 Peter 4:17 – “For” – not suffering because of our own sin, not being ashamed of suffering, but using it to glorify God.

“it is time for judgment” – “there is a kind of preliminary judgment.” “to begin with the household of God;” – Church, 1 Peter 1:17.

“and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” – Isaiah 10:12.

1 Peter 4:18 – “AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED,” – Matthew 24:10, Matthew 24:12.

No Comparison Between Our Sufferings And That Of The Ungodly: “WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?” – Proverbs 11:31.

#### **4. Verse 19 – Enlist Your Suffering:**

1 Peter 4:19 – “Therefore,” – We should expect to suffer; We should exult in our sufferings;” We should evaluate our sufferings.

“those also who suffer according to the will of God” – This verse clearly states that sometimes suffering is the will of God for us, 1 Peter 1:6; 2:15; 3:17; 5:6.

#### **We can respond in 2 ways:**

##### **1. We Can Complain Against God.**

##### **2. We Can Commit Ourselves To Him:** “shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator”

“entrust” – or “commit” is a banking term that means “making a deposit for safekeeping, entrusting valuables to someone,” 2 Timothy 1:12.

Luke 23:46 – “INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.”

The Faithful God Of Protection & Safekeeping: “faithful Creator in doing what is right.” – Notice the key is to trust His character, 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

“in doing what is right.” – Philippians 1:6.

#### **Application:**

1. We Should Not Be Surprised But Expect To Suffer. Suffering Is Used By God To Purify The Believer.
2. Sufferings Deepen Our Fellowship With Christ. Sufferings Deepen Our Joy And Prepare Us For His Return. Sufferings Deepen Our Reliance On The Holy Spirit. Suffering Christians Don't Have To Wait For Heaven To Experience His Glory.
3. Evaluating Our Suffering; Make Sure Our Suffering Is Not The Result Of My Sin. I May Be Suffering As A Result Of My Faith. Sometimes Suffering Is Timely And Needed.
4. Enlist Your Suffering. Commit Yourself Into God's Hands. He Is The Creator And He Is Faithful. God Always Does What Is Right.