




Suffering as a Christian

FIRST PETER



In all your trials, look to the future:

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1:3)*
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In all your trials, look to the future:


- *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1:4-5)*

you suffer so that your faith may result in praise, honor and glory to God

- In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1:6-7)*




In all your trials, look to the future:

- Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1:13).*
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In all your trials, look to the future:

- *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. (2:12) .*
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In all your trials, look to the future:

- *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (3:15)*
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In all your trials, look to the future:

- *but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. (4:13).*
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In all your trials, look to the future:

- *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (5:10).*
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Suffering in 1 Peter






Chapter 1:

- **Suffering is the will of God**, which purifies our faith, to the glory of God (6-9).
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Chapter 2:

Suffering for sin has no virtue (v. 20), but suffering which is underserved is commended if you have the right response to it (19).
Jesus Himself is the example (21-25).






Chapter 3:

- **Suffering is a blessing** (14), which may open the door for bearing witness to our faith (verse 15) and lead to the salvation of others.
 - Suffering was the path to glory for our Lord, as it will be for us (18-22).
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Chapter 4:

- **Suffering is an encouragement to us,** because it occurs when godless men are threatened by the change God produces in our lives (verses 1-4).
 - Suffering should not be a surprise but a cause for rejoicing (12-14).
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Chapter 5:

- **Suffering is the experience shared by believers in the whole body of Christ** around the world (verse 9).
 - After we have suffered, we shall enter into His eternal glory, knowing that God Himself will confirm, strengthen, and establish us (10).
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General causes for suffering

- Suffering by loss of health - physical pain, illness, accident, loss of function, etc.
- Suffering by privation - the lack of necessities such as food, shelter, clothing.
- Suffering from the weather: freezing or hot weather, tornados, hurricanes, blizzards, earthquakes, volcanoes.
- Suffering from mental anguish - worry, sorrow, anguish, fears, phobias, bitterness, jealousy.
- Suffering from justice, deserved or undeserved.
- Suffering caused by other people.

Suffering in 1 Peter

- *trials in general* (1:6, πειρασμοί, “tests, trials”),
- *slander* (2:12; 3:16, καταλαλέω, “to defame, to speak evil of”),
- *evil* (3:9, κακός, “evil or injurious conduct”),
- *insult* (3:9, λοιδορίας, “verbal abuse”),
- *being reviled* (3:16, εὐφρέαζω, “to threaten or mistreat;”),
- *being insulted* (4:14, ονειδίζω, “to reproach or insult”).

Suffering in 1 Peter


- suffering “unjustly” (2:19),
- suffering when they do “what is right” (2:20b; 3:17),
- suffering “for the sake of righteousness” (3:14),
- suffering “as a Christian” (4:16), and
- suffering “according to the will of God” (4:19).

Submission in 1 Peter

- *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men --(2:13–15).*
- **submission to governmental authority “for the Lord’s sake” can result in silencing “foolish men,” -- those who were slandering the Christians as evildoers (2:12).**

Submission in 1 Peter

- *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully (2:18–19).*
- **Submission of servants to their masters—even unreasonable ones who cause unjust suffering—brings “favor” (χάρις) with God.**

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- *Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, (3:1).*
 - **Submission of Christian wives to their unbelieving husbands may result in those husbands being won to the Lord by the wives' godly conduct.**

Deserved Suffering in 1 Peter

- *For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God (2:20).*
- *For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil (3:17).*
- *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter (4:15-16).*

1. You can avoid suffering caused by divine discipline.

- Heb. 12:1-15; Psalm 38
- Chastisement is avoided by staying in fellowship, confessing sin, forsaking sin, laying aside every weight...that is, choosing to obey God.

2. You can avoid suffering from failure to isolate sin.

- An example is the failure to forgive an offense. This leads to mental attitude sins such as anger, bitterness, desire for revenge, judging. These, in turn, lead to sins of the tongue, maligning, gossip, false accusations. The offended party suffers worse than the original offender. But the whole chain can be broken by forgiving the other party and confessing the sins in the chain.

3. You can avoid suffering due to maintaining a guilt complex.

- Remember that Christ died for all our sins; He bore the guilt for us. (1 Pet. 3:18; 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21). One may have confessed sin biblically still labor under a heavy load of guilt. This is unbelief!
- A guilt complex itself is sinful, because one says by this that the Lord has not forgiven. But, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgression from us."

4. You can avoid suffering which comes from living a lifestyle like the unsaved.

- This is a life of callousness in the soul, emptiness, blindness, as shown in Eph. 4:17–32.
- The cure - maintaining fellowship with God on a daily basis.

5. You can avoid suffering due to the rejection of authority

- such as parental authority, school authority, civil authority, military authority, etc.
- READ Judges 19 and 10, Matt. 7:29 to 8:13, Jer. 7, and Prov. 30

6. You can avoid suffering caused by making decisions outside of the plan of God.

- Don't follow a career that takes you away from the Word.
- Don't reject divine principles of marriage (marrying an unbeliever, getting a divorce, etc.)
- Don't follow any "greener pastures" leading or make changes in your circumstances because you think you will be happier in the new situation.
- Don't raise children by human viewpoint.
- In general, don't reject the Word of God, either through neglect or willful disobedience.

DON'T BE AMAZED

4:12

- Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;