

1 PETER
EXILED
STANDING FIRM IN GOD'S GRACE



Obeying the Gospel

1 Peter 4:12-19

Main Idea

Instead of being surprised by suffering, the Christian should rejoice and entrust themselves to God in the midst of suffering.

Overview

- **Beloved, don't be surprised by fiery trials that come to test you**
 - Fiery Trials should not be seen as abnormal to the Christian life anymore than bullets are abnormal to soldiers
 - Trials have a way of revealing if you really do Believe Jesus or whether you believe Him to be some sort of insurance policy
 - Luther: "They gave our Master a Crown of Thorns, why do we hope for a crown of roses?"
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- **Beloved, rejoice in your sufferings**
 - Joy is something deeper and more meaningful than happiness; it transcends immediate circumstances
 - Christians can rejoice because they are sharing in Christ's sufferings
 - It's not that our suffering can atone for people's sin like Jesus'
 - But we can display the Love of God to the world that others may come to be redeemed as well as we give them the reason for the hope that is in us through our trials
- **Beloved, you can and you will stand to rejoice and be glad when Jesus' glory is revealed**
 - This future promise is looking into the future of Christ's return where He will judge the living and the dead
 - You don't have to fear the judgment of condemnation
- **Beloved, insult for the name of Christ means blessing because the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon you**
 - People may be against you, but God is for you
 - You are blessed because the Spirit of God has not left you or forsaken you
- **Beloved, do not suffer for sin**
 - We will have enough difficulty as it is, don't welcome suffering through sinning
- **Let those who suffer entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good**
 - He has never failed one single promise...He is faithful, you can trust Him in your trial
 - Obeying the Gospel means Entrusting your life to a Faithful creator knowing trials are going to come...but the one who judges justly will heal us & bring us home

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Pick a few examples where commitment and sacrifice proceed recognition and glory. How does this resemble the Christian life? (We, as followers of Christ are exiles in this world; because we are we must be prepared to suffer as Christ suffered. For all that do, they will taste and behold true Glory – God Himself)*

1. Read 1 Peter 1:19, 4:1-19 What is the setting/audience for 1 Peter?
2. Why does Peter say, “do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you?” Why are we often surprised and think trials to be strange? What types of trials have you experienced? What types of trials might you experience?
3. Peter says these trials come to “test you.” In what ways do trials test us? How have you seen this happen in your own life, and what have trials taught you?
4. In verse 13 Peter uses a future hope – “be glad when his glory is revealed” – to motivate us in the midst of suffering. Why will we be glad when Jesus’ glory is revealed and how does this help us endure?
5. In verse 14 (and in 16) Peter uses a present reality – “you are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you” – to motivate us in the midst of suffering. What does this mean and how does it help us endure?
6. How does this future hope and present reality help us rejoice in the midst of trials? What difference does it make to us and to those around us when we are *not* rejoicing in trials? Practically speaking, what does it look like to rejoice when we share in Christ’s sufferings?
7. Usually we are told to “believe the gospel,” but in verse 17 Peter uses the term “obey the gospel.” Are there places in your life where you say you “believe” the gospel but are not “obeying” the gospel?
8. What does it look like for us to “entrust [our] souls to a faithful Creator while doing good?”

Accountability question: *Are there areas in your life where you’re unwilling to suffer/exercise commitment to obey the gospel?*