

ARM YOURSELVES

A Study of 1 Peter



1 Peter 4

**1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves with the same way of thinking**

1 Peter 4

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that has come upon you, as though something strange were happening to you.

13 But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His glory.

1 Peter 4

14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 Indeed, none of you should suffer as a murderer or thief or wrongdoer, or even as a meddler. 16 But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God that you bear this name.

1 Peter 4

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey 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?”

1 Peter 4

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

1 Peter 4

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Expect to Suffer

1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

2 Timothy 2:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

John 16:1 “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.

Expect to Suffer

Matthew 10:16 “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. 17 Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.

21 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 22 You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn ““a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

36 a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

1 Peter 4

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Rejoice in Suffering

1. Suffering purifies us

Romans 5

3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rejoice in Suffering

2. Suffering purifies the church

1 Peter 1

6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Rejoice in Suffering

3. Suffering makes us more productive

John 15

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Rejoice in Suffering

4. Suffering causes us to know Christ better

Philippians 3

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ
10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Rejoice in Suffering

5. Suffering strengthens our faith

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Rejoice in Suffering

6. Suffering shifts power from our flesh to our spirit

1 Peter 4

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.

Rejoice in Suffering

7. Suffering gives us an eternal perspective

2 Corinthians 4

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Rejoice in Suffering

8. Suffering glorifies God

1 Peter 4:16 But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God that you bear this name.

Philippians 1:20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Rejoice in Suffering

9. Suffering offers a great reward

Luke 6

22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

23 “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.

Rejoice in Suffering

10. Suffering is what it may take to win people for Christ

Colossians 1

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—

1 Peter 4

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

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