

# 1 PETER 4:12-19 “A FIERY TRIAL”

**12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning **the fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;  
**13** 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.

**1 Peter 4:12 (NASB)** Beloved, do not be surprised at **the fiery ordeal among you**, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

- Literally rendered it could read “the among you burning.”
- The verb *pyrōsei* is from *pyrōō*, “to burn.”
  - Metaphorical as in 1:7 where the context is quite similar. <sup>1</sup>

• Peter spoke more than any other N.T. writer on the subject of suffering:

**1 Peter 1:11** seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

**1 Peter 2:19** For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

**1 Peter 2:20** For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

**1 Peter 2:21** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

**1 Peter 2:23** and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

**1 Peter 3:14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

**1 Peter 3:17** For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

**1 Peter 4:1** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

**1 Peter 4:13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

**1 Peter 4:15** Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

**1 Peter 4:16** but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

**1 Peter 4:19** Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

**1 Peter 5:1** Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

<sup>1</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

**1 Peter 5:9** But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

**1 Peter 5:10** After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

## 25 Reasons Christians Suffer

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| 1. To produce the fruit of patience      | Rom. 5:3; James 1:3–4; Heb. 10:36                                 |
| 2. To produce the fruit of joy           | Ps. 30:5; 126:5–6   |
| 3. To produce the fruit of maturity      | Eccles. 7:3; 1 Pet. 5:10  |
| 4. To produce the fruit of righteousness | Heb. 12:11  |
| 5. To silence the devil                  | Job 1:9, 10, 20–22  |
| 6. To teach us                           | Ps. 119:67, 71  |
| 7. To purify our lives                   | Job 23:10; Ps. 66:10–12; Isa. 1:25; 48:10; Prov. 17:3; 1 Pet. 1:7 |
| 8. To make us like Christ                | Heb. 12:9, 10; 1 Pet. 4:12–13; Phil. 3:10; 2 Cor. 4:7–10          |
| 9. To glorify God                        | Ps. 50:15; John 9:1–3; 11:1–4; 21:18–19; Phil. 1:19–20            |
| 10. To prevent us from sinning           | 2 Cor. 12:7, 9–10   |
| 11. To make us confess when we do sin    | Judg. 10:6–7, 15–16; Ps. 32:3–5; Hos. 5:15; 6:1; 2 Chron. 15:3–4  |
| 12. To chasten us for our sin            | 1 Pet. 4:17   |
| 13. To prove our sonship                 | Heb. 12:5–6   |
| 14. To reveal ourselves to ourselves     | Job 42:6; Luke 15:18  |
| 15. To help our prayer life              | Isa. 26:16  |
| 16. To become an example to others       | 2 Cor. 6:4–5; 1 Thess. 1:6–7                                      |
| 17. To qualify us as counselors          | Rom. 12:15; Gal. 6:2; 2 Cor. 1:3–5                                |
| 18. To further the gospel witness        | Acts 8:1–5; 16:25–34; Phil. 1:12–13; 2 Tim. 4:6–8, 16–17          |
| 19. To make us more than conquerors      | 2 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:35, 37  |
| 20. To give us insight into God's nature | Job 42:5; Rom. 8:14–15, 18  |
| 21. To drive us closer to God            | 1 Pet. 4:14; 2 Cor. 12:10   |
| 22. To prepare us for a greater ministry | 1 Kings 17–18; John 12:24   |
| 23. To provide for us a reward           | Matt. 5:10–12; 19:27–29; Rom. 8:16–17; 2 Cor. 4:17                |
| 24. To prepare us for the kingdom        | 2 Thess. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:12   |
| 25. To show God's sovereignty            | Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 10:13; Ps. 66:10–12; Gen. 45:5–8; 50:20         |

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- **Jesus said:**

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**"

- **koinōneō**, “to share”; related nouns are **koinōnia**, “communion, fellowship, close relationship,” and **koinōnos**, “sharer”; <sup>3</sup>

### What qualifies as “righteous suffering”:

**14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

<sup>2</sup>Willmington, H. L. (1987). *Willmington's book of Bible lists*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

<sup>3</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

**15** 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.

• **Just how much of what Peter says here left a lump in his throat and heart?**

○ **Peter's shame?**

○ **Paul's shame for persecuting the church?**

***Philippians 3:13-14***

**13** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

**14** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**17** For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

**18** Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

**19** Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

## **12 Areas Christians Will Be Tested At The Judgment Seat of Christ**

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| 1. How we treat other believers                                 | Heb. 6:10; Matt. 10:41–42  |
| 2. How we exercise our authority over others.                   | Heb. 13:17; James 3:1  |
| 3. How we employ our God-given abilities.                       | 1 Cor. 12:4, 11; 2 Tim. 1:6; 1 Pet. 4:10                             |
| 4. How we use our money   | 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6–7; 1 Tim. 6:17–19                            |
| 5. How we spend our time  | Ps. 90:12; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:17                          |
| 6. How much we suffer for Jesus                                 | Matt. 5:11–12; Mark 10:29–30; Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17; 2 Pet. 4:12–13 |
| 7. How we run that particular race which God has chosen for us  | 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 2:16; 3:13–14; Heb. 12:1                          |
| 8. How effectively we control the old nature                    | 1 Cor. 9:25–27   |
| 9. How many souls we witness to and win to Christ               | Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; 1 Thess. 2:19–20                             |
| 10. How we react to temptation                                  | James 1:2–3; Rev. 2:10   |
| 11. How much the doctrine of the Rapture means to us            | 2 Tim. 4:8–9   |
| 12. How faithful we are to the Word of God and the flock of God | Acts 20:26–28; 2 Tim. 4:1–2; Pet. 5:2–4                              |

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<sup>4</sup>Willmington, H. L. (1987). *Willmington's book of Bible lists*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.