

October 25, 2015
I Peter 4:12-19

WHEN YOUR FAITH IS ON TRIAL

I. Introduction:

3 Kinds of Suffering:

"COMMON" suffering - because I am a human being

"CARNAL" suffering - because I sin

"CHRISTIAN" suffering - because I am a believer

II. What To Do When Suffering Comes:

1. _____ IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." I Peter 4:12 (NIV)

(Jesus) "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." John 15:20 (NIV)

2. _____ WHEN IT DOES HAPPEN

"But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ." I Peter 4:13a (NIV)

Reasons to Rejoice

It _____ to Christ.

"...these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterwards you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory." I Pet. 4:13b (LB)

□ It means God's Spirit _____
"When people insult you because you follow Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of God is with you." I Pet 4:14

□ It means God _____
"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Acts 5:41

3. _____ TO BE ASHAMED.

"If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name." I Pet. 4:16 (NIV)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:10

4. _____ FAITHFUL TO GOD!

"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." I Peter 4:19 (NIV)

Do people notice Christ in my life?
Have I been ashamed to take a stand?

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1:16 (NIV)

POINTS TO PONDER
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Open It

1. *What is something for which you were wrongly punished when you were growing up?
2. When was the last time you were greatly surprised by something that happened to you?

Explore It

3. By what were Peter's readers not to be surprised? (4:12)
4. *In what did Peter tell his readers to rejoice? (4:13)
5. What would participating in Christ's suffering prepare these believers for? (4:13)
6. Under what circumstance did Peter tell these believers they would be blessed? (4:14)
7. How did Peter say these believers shouldn't suffer? (4:15)
8. *What did Peter urge his readers to do if they suffered as Christians? (4:16)
9. For what did Peter say it was time? (4:17)
10. What question did Peter ask his readers? (4:17)
11. What does the verse Peter quoted say about the righteous and the ungodly? (4:18)

12. *What should those who suffer according to God's will do? (4:19)

Get It

13. What painful trials have you gone through as a believer?

14. *How can participating in Christ's suffering prepare us for His Second Coming?

15. When have you been insulted because of the name of Christ?

16. How is suffering as a wrongdoer (such as for murder) significantly different from suffering as a Christian?

17. When have you ever been ashamed of being a Christian? Why?

18. *Why might it be God's will for someone to suffer?

19. What sort of judgment do members of God's family face?

Apply It

20. *In what difficult circumstance do you need to praise God this week?

21. What steps do you need to take so that your suffering is not the result of your own wrongdoing?