

Future Triumph: The Necessity of Hard Lessons

I Peter 4:12-19

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March 10, 2013

Bottom Line:

God calls us to endure suffering for His glory. In fact, we are to be glad when trials and testings come because our correct response of faith in the midst of those trials makes us more like Christ.

Intro: Bible speaks of various types of suffering

- 1) Suffering as part of a fallen creation
- 2) Suffering the consequences of personal sin
- 3) Eternal suffering of hell for rejecting Christ
- 4) The discipline of the loving hand of God
- 5) Suffering as a Christian among a hostile world

I. Expect Intense Trials 4:12

- A. We become surprised by testing
- B. We believe that trials are not necessary

II. Exult in Your Trials 4:13-14

- A. They produce deeper fellowship with Christ
- B. They prepare us for a deeper level of joy at His coming
- C. They prod us on to a deeper experience of God's Spirit

III. Examine Yourself in Trials 4:15-18

- A. Suffering for personal sins gains no reward from God
- B. Suffering as a Christian
 1. Not a reason to be ashamed
 2. Should glorify God
- C. Judgment on the household of God?
- D. The more severe judgment that awaits the godless

Self Examination:

- 1) *Is this trial due to some known sin in my life? (4:15)*
- 2) *How can I glorify God in this trial? (4:16)*
- 3) *How will this trial produce eternal results? (4:17-18)*

IV. Entrust Yourself to God in Trials 4:19

- A. "entrust" - the sense of leaving all our valuables with God
- B. The Creator can be trusted with our present assignments and our future glory

Conclusion:

1. *Can you honestly trust God when you deal with unfairness?*
2. *Is your perspective deficient in any way?*
3. *Be diligent not to become embittered toward those who struggle and fail in various trials.*