

**Living in Exile: Spiritual Suffering**  
**I Peter 4:12-19**

**I Peter 4:12-19** *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

**Truth #1:** Following Jesus means you will suffer.

**I Peter 4:12** *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

**II Timothy 3:12** *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

**I Peter 4:15** *But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.*

**John 15:18-21** *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*

**Truth #2:** Following Jesus means that you can rejoice when you suffer.

**I Peter 4:13** *But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*

**James 1:2-4** *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

**Romans 8:28-29** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son ...*

**Hebrews 12:2** *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**I Peter 4:13** *... that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*

**I Peter 4:16** *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.*

**Truth #3:** Following Jesus means when you suffer, God is accomplishing His purposes in you.

**I Peter 4:14** *If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

**I Peter 4:17-18** *For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"*

**I Peter 4:19** *Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

"Upon reflection no better comfort in suffering can be found than this: it is God's good and perfect will."

- **Wayne Grudem**

In the midst of all spiritual suffering, know that God is big and God is faithful.