**FOCUS** in 2020

November 22, 2020

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**THRIVE –** *A Study of 1 Peter*

***Good Suffering – 1 Peter 4:13-19***



*Big Idea - When you suffer for doing good, your suffering is good.*

1. Suffering is **part** of the **plan**. **v. 12-13**

*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.*

1 Peter 4:12–13

Do not jump to conclusions and do not jump ship.

**Which suffering are they experiencing?**

* Deserved suffering
* Innocent suffering
* Righteous suffering

A fiery trial – Greek = pyrosis (English pyro)

* + God uses fire to purify us 1 Pet 1:6, 7
  + Two different fires v.12 and v.17
  + “When the fire of judgment burns the church, it is a testing, proving, purifying fire. When it burns the world, it either awakens or destroys.” John Piper “*It proves and strengthens real faith, and it consumes “performance faith.”*

***Application***: Train yourself in righteousness - aka **right** **living**.

1. Acceptance fromGod **outweighs** disapproval from **man**. **v.14 -16**

*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.* 1 Peter 4:14–16

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| **Scripture** -Peter speaks from experience | **Occurrence** | **Impact** |
| John 1:41, 42 | Peter follows Jesus. | Life changing decision. |
| John 18:25-27 | Peter denies being a follower of Jesus. | Shame and guilt. |
| John 21:15-17 | Jesus reaffirms Peter. | Shame/guilt removed; confidence/joy restored. |
| Acts 1:8 | Holy Spirit fills the apostles with power to boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. | Prepared for world change. |
| Acts 1:15 | Peter preaches his first bold sermon. | Fulfills the words spoken by Jesus. Matthew 16:19, John 21:15-17 |
| Acts 4:8-31 | Peter filled with the Holy Spirit to act and speak with boldness. | Increased Spirit filled ability to witness. Church emboldened. |
| Acts 5:12-42 | The apostles imprisoned for preaching. Angel instructs them to continue preaching v.19-20. They continue, but are flogged - disobeying the religious authorities. | The apostles rejoice in being named with Christ through their suffering. v. 41- 42 |

Reflecting the life of Christ is learned behavior.

**Wrong way** - v.15 Make sure that none of you suffer for the following reasons … they were being falsely accused of these acts. Peter believed Christians could commit these acts; therefore, he warned against them.

“*There is very little comfort in sufferings when we bring them upon ourselves by our own sin and folly. It is not the suffering, but the cause, that makes the martyr*.” Matthew Henry

"*Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year; it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."* Congressman John Lewis

***Application****: Get into* ***good******trouble****.*

* + 1. ***Texas is the 3rd highest state for sex trafficking***. Take a tangible step to help end sex trafficking in our world, our country, and our community. Explore opportunities to partner with a local group in Houston [elijahrising.org](file:///C:\Users\Jerry\Documents\1%20Peter\elijahrising.org).
    2. ***Color brave*** - Seek to live sacrificially by listening to someone of the opposite race. Share personal stories, empathize with them, and journey together.

1. Earthly suffering has an **expiration** date. **v. 17-19**

*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.* 1 Peter 4:17–19

Pastor David Guzik says, “Christians can rejoice that the sufferings they face in this life are the worst they will ever face throughout all eternity. We have seen the worst; those who reject Jesus Christ have seen the best of life their eternal existence will ever see.”

**Get in the game**!

We are not called to spectate, but to **participate**!

**Fatigue vs. Endurance**

* Good suffering requires and creates more **endurance**.
* Wrongful suffering causes fatigue, doubt, and **bitterness**.

“*I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant, which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*” John Wesley

**Application:** Get out of the driver seat of your life and let your **Creator** take the **wheel**.

* Live an adventurous life for Christ by committing your time, talent, and treasures to the cause of Christ.
* Know Jesus in a personal way by asking Him for forgiveness of your sins. Surrender your will to His.