

1 Peter

A Fiery Trial

10/21/2001

Reading: [Hebrews 12:1-6](#)

Text: [1 Peter 4:12-19](#)

Introduction:

- A. A “fiery trial” was about to overtake the entire church.
1. Rome tolerated Christianity because it was considered a Jewish “sect”
 2. That attitude changed and Nero ignited the fires of persecution.
- B. With this in mind, Peter gave the believers four instructions:

#1 Expect Suffering [1 Peter 4:12](#)

A. Persecution is not alien to the Christian life.

1. Christians are different from unbelievers
2. [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#)
3. The world depend on lies, pride, pleasure, and the desire for more.
4. Christians on truth, humility, holiness, and the desire to glorify God.

B. This conflict is illustrated throughout the Bible.

1. [Genesis 4:1-8](#) Cain a religious man, hated and killed Abel. Why?
2. [1 John 3:12](#) his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous
3. The Pharisees and Jewish leaders crucified Christ and the church.
4. Persecution is not a strange thing. Its absence would be.

#2 Rejoice in Suffering [1 Peter 4:13-14](#)

A. Our suffering means fellowship with Christ [v. 13](#)

1. [Philippians 1:29](#)—For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
2. When sinners persecute us, they really persecute Jesus Christ [Acts 9:4](#)

B. Our suffering means glory in the future [v. 13](#)

1. [John 16:20-22](#)—Jesus used the illustration of a woman giving birth. The same baby that gave her pain also gave her joy
2. Paul’s thorn in the flesh also gave him power and glory [2 Cor. 12:7-10](#)
3. The cross that gave Jesus shame and pain also brought power and glory.

C. Our Suffering means the Spirit of glory and of God rests...

1. “Spirit of glory”
 - a. [Acts 7:2](#)—“The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham”
 - b. [1 Corinthians 2:8](#)—would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
2. “Blessed are you...”
 - a. You can be happy even suffer because God is with you.
 - b. “I am with you always...” [Matthew 28:20](#)

D. Our suffering glorifies His name (v. 14)

1. We suffer because of His name [John 15:21](#)
2. Our authority is in the name of Jesus, and Satan hates that name.
3. It is the name above every name [Philippians 2:9](#)

#3 Examine Your Life [1 Peter 4:15-18](#)

A. Why am I suffering? [v. 15](#)

1. When Abraham, David, Peter, and other Bible “greats” disobeyed God, they suffered for it; so, who are we that we should escape?
2. Let’s be sure we are suffering because we are Christians and not because we are criminals.

B. Am I ashamed, or glorifying Christ? [v. 16](#)

1. On the cross Jesus Christ despised shame for us [Hebrews 12:2](#) so surely we can bear reproach for Him and not be ashamed
2. If we seek to glorify God, then we will not be ashamed of the name of Jesus Christ.

C. Am I seeking to win the lost? [v. 17-18](#)

1. Note the words that Peter used to describe the lost
2. Our present “fiery trial” is nothing compared to the “flaming fire” that will punish the lost when Jesus returns [2 Thessalonians 1:7-10](#)

#4 Commit Yourself to God [1 Peter 4:19](#)

A. “Commit”

1. is a banking term; it means “to deposit for safekeeping”
2. [2 Timothy 1:12](#)—I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.
3. This picture reminds us that we are valuable to God.
4. He made us, redeemed us, lives in us, guards, and protects us.

B. “Be constantly committing” is the force of the admonition.

1. As we return good for evil we commit ourselves to God.
2. Our Father is “the Lord of heaven and earth” [Matthew 11:25](#)
3. With that kind of a Father, we have no need to worry!
4. In [John 16:33](#) Jesus encouraged: “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.”

Conclusion:

1. Do you want real peace?
2. Commit yourself to God.