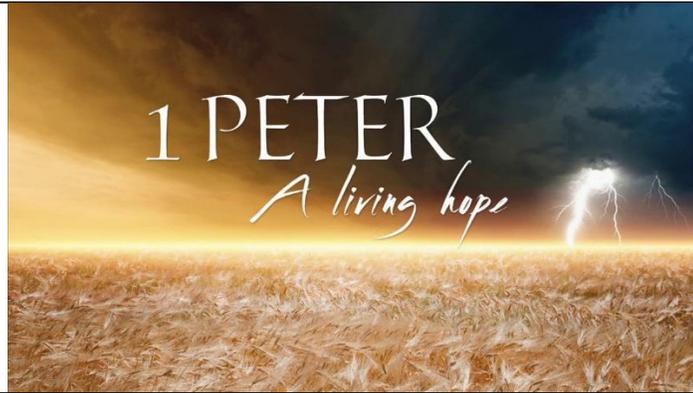


1 Peter

a living hope

13 June 2021

1 Peter 4:12-19



Text

V	NIV	NET	MSG
12	Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.	Dear friends, do not be astonished[a] that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as though something strange were happening to you.	Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.
13	But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.	But rejoice in the degree that you have shared in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice and be glad	
14	If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.	If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, who is the Spirit of God, rests on you.	If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!
15	If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.	But let none of you suffer as a murderer or thief or criminal or as a troublemaker	
16	However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.	But if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but glorify God that you bear such a name	
17	For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?	For it is time for judgment to begin, starting with the house of God. And if it starts with us, what will be the fate of those who are disobedient to the gospel of God?	It's judgment time for God's own family. We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message! If good people barely make it, What's in store for the bad?
18	And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" [Proverbs 11:31]	And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the ungodly and sinners?[Proverbs 11:31]	So if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it.
19	So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.	So then let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator as they do good.	

Group Discussion

- **Previous message summary:** Peter gives us a series of commands to help us get our lives in order because the end of all things is near. He reminds us that we must be serious and watchful in our prayers, we must love one another earnestly as our first order of business, show hospitality without grumbling, and use our God-given gifts for his glory.
- **What we learned:** We need to live differently than the world around us so we can be the people of God and live the kind of life that makes a difference and honors God.

Read **1 Peter 4:12-19**

- Pain can be very consuming, affecting how we look and feel about everything. What kind of pain affects your life the most, physical or emotional?
 - What is the worst pain you've ever experienced? What helped you endure that pain?
 - Sometimes short-term pain can bring about long-term joy and peace. Have you ever felt like the pain you went through was worth it because of the end result?
 - Suffering for Christ can be painful. Have you ever had to endure physical or emotional pain because of your faith in Christ?
 - Are you willing to endure short-term trials, knowing that there is long-term joy coming in the future?
- 1 Peter is written during a time when Christians were being persecuted. What words does Peter use to describe this persecution?
 - What does a "*fiery trial*" tell us about the type of persecution that the early church had to endure?
 - Peter reminds the church to expect suffering for the cause of Christ. How is this attitude different from the attitude that most North American Christians have towards suffering and trials because of their faith in Christ?
 - What was the main message of the New Testament writers about persecution in the life of a Christian? Read what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:12 and what John wrote in 1 John 3:13. What did Jesus tell his disciples about persecution in John 15:18-20.
 - What places in the world today are you aware of where Christians expect persecution and suffering because of their faith?
 - When persecution does happen in North America, should Christians be surprised? What are some ways that you might see persecution arising in North America?
- What does Peter tell his readers to do when they are persecuted for the name of Christ? (Verse 13)
 - What does it mean to rejoice and be glad? How is that even possible when a Christian is in the midst of a "fiery" trial? Have you experienced rejoicing as a result of suffering? Consider what James 1:2-4 tells us about trials.
 - When will we fully rejoice as a result of our Christian persecution? When will God's glory be fully revealed?
 - Does verse 13 (especially the last phrase) help Christians endure suffering? What does Paul say about his suffering for the name of Christ? (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- What does Peter say about suffering in verses 14 & 15? Is all suffering the same? Is suffering for Christ the same as suffering due to our own lack of judgment?
 - What does Peter say happens as a result of suffering for Christ?
 - Peter tells his readers to not be ashamed because of their suffering as a Christian. In what ways could a Christian be tempted to be ashamed because of their suffering for Christ?
- What does it mean that judgment begins with God's household? What does judgment for the people of God tell us about the judgment for those outside of Christ?
 - Does this passage of Scripture help you remain faithful to Jesus in the midst of persecution? If so, in what way? How does this passage encourage you to be bold and unashamed as you work to share the gospel with others?
- 6. What does it mean for Christians to trust their lives to God in the midst of persecution?
 - What are some ways we can demonstrate that we have trusted ourselves to God?
 - When we have completely entrusted ourselves to God, is there really anything to fear?

Praying For One Another

Pray that each one in your group would have boldness to proclaim the good news of Jesus, even though you may be persecuted as a result. Pray for those around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.