**Submission Through Suffering!**

**Series on I Peter #10**

I Peter 3:13 - 4:19

Peter teaches, to become more like Christ, we must live a sub- mitted life. Submission includes obeying the authority over us and serving others rather than living for ourselves. Today, Peter admonishes us to continue to submit to our Lord, even/especially when we are called to suffer.

1. **The Main Reasons for Suffering:**
2. **Sin By Me** (I Jn.1:8) -

* Consequences (I Pet. 4:15)
* Chastening (Heb. 12:10-11)

Solution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Sin Against Me** (Matt.18:15,22) -

Solution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Living In a Fallen World** (Jn 16:33)
2. **The Possible Reactions to Suffering:**
   1. **We Question -**
   2. **We Weaken** -
   3. **We Reject** -
3. **The Right Response to Suffering:**
   1. **Rejoice!** (I Pet. 4:13-14)-
   2. **Receive** (I Pet. 5:10)-
   3. **Remain** (I Pet. 4:19) -

Peter’s readers had already endured many trials and were about to move into greater suffering. He explains that continuing to submit in the face of suffering opens them to the sustaining grace of a loving Lord!

**Going Deeper:**

1. What is one of the greatest trials or periods of suffering you have ever experienced? How did you react during that trial?
2. Why do you think both Peter (4:13) and James (1:2) instruct us to rejoice (be joyful) in the face of trials and suffering? Are they crazy?
3. Can you see why Peter was so intent on convincing these precious believers that suffering was not an indication of God’s displeasure or abandonment?
4. What are some of the consequences if we attempt to take back control of our lives during a period of suffering or trial? Have you ever experienced this/ these?
5. What does Christ’s life and death (the Cross) teach us about the reality of suffering in the redemptive plan of God? Does it bring you comfort to know He has experienced this pain as well?
6. **Personal:** Have you personally experienced God’s supernatural grace and presence in the midst of a time of suffering or are you struggling to hold on?

**Questions for Our Kids:**

1. Have you ever had a time when you were really sad because of something that was happening to you? What did you do to get through that time? Do you know that God is always there to help you?
2. The Bible tells us that even though we belong to Jesus, sometimes we will have struggles and hard situations in our lives. Can God use these struggles to make us stronger?
3. Do you know someone who might be going through a really tough struggle right now? What are some of the ways you can you help them! How can you make them feel better?