



"When Life is Hard"

1 Peter 4:12-19
November 16, 2025

The Big Idea: Peter teaches us to **anticipate** and prepare for suffering. We need to understand the various **reasons** we suffer, the appropriate **responses** to suffering and how to move forward after a time of suffering.

1 Peter 4:12-19 (ESV)

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.

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

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

¹⁵ **But let none of you suffer** as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a **meddler**. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone **suffers as a Christian**, let him **not be ashamed**, but **let him glorify God** in that name. ¹⁷ **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? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

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

Four Sources of Suffering:

① **God**

- Because the world is at **war** with God
- Sometimes, the source is God Himself, who in love is determined to make sure that I don't **stay** the **same**!
Hebrews 12:5-6
- v.19 of 1 Pet 4 states that sometimes suffering is "according to God's will."

② **A Broken World**

- The moment you became a Christian was the moment your greatest Enemy increased his **attacks** on your life.
- Why does Satan do this
Ephesians 6:11-12

③ **The Consequences of Sin**

- Ours and others
- There is no end to that **suffering** caused by SIN!

④ **Bad Decisions** (v. 15)

- These are the things you have no one to blame for but yourself. You **chose** them.

Five Truths About Suffering [how to move forward]:

- + Suffering may not mean God has **let us down**, but that he is **building us up**.
- + Our surprise at suffering shows **wrong expectations**.
 - God is not here to protect us from all suffering. God is here to give us what we need to get through the suffering while He **accomplishes** His **purposes** while we are suffering, and to one day take us to a place where there is **NO** suffering.
 - The place of no suffering is called Heaven. THIS is not heaven. This also is not Hell. So, don't expect of Earth what can only be seen and lived in Heaven.
- + Suffering will show if we really **believe** what we *believe* we **believe**.
- + Our suffering may be someone else's greatest **blessing**.
- + There are 2 primary ways we can make it through suffering:
 - Entrusting our souls to a "Faithful Creator"
 - Doing good.

"Why do bad things happen to good people? That only happened once and He volunteered."

R. C. Sproul
