

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER
TO THE CHURCH OF THE DISPERSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1 PETER CHAPTER 4:12-19

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:
“What We Really Need – When We Really Hurt”

The Ministry of The Grace of God Toward All Those Who Are Anchored in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
Lordship, Holiness, Sanctification, Maturity, Judgment

Congregational Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19

:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice (in faith, be glad for it) to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the Name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. 17 For (in conjunction with suffering) the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

**We Live in Appointed Times;
When The Day of Departure Comes – Will You Be Ready?
Part of becoming ready is the fact that followers of the Lord Jesus Christ
are Appointed to Suffer.**

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**

**Promised Persecution / Related Hardships / Generic
Sickness / Common Sufferings...**

Appointed Times;

When The Day of Departure Comes – Will You Be Ready?

We all just returned from our latest tour to Israel, a trip that had been on the books for over a year – planned for and predetermined. All the companies involved had done what they needed to do.

The only thing left to do was for Lisa and I to get to the airport with everything we needed for the trip.

Like a Pilot's Pre-Flight Checklist things were packed

What Airline? – United! What Terminal? 6

But before you “Fly the Friendly Skies” you better check the fine print first.

Welcome to United Airlines Operated by Lufthansa.

We had all the information we needed – but we mistakenly failed to recognize who was taking us there.

Once you pass from this world into His eternity

the greatest and most meaningful moment of your existence will happen. You will stand before the Almighty God with your life lived in your hands. At that moment, in the day when Christ judges His church – He will meet with each of us, with you and I personally as He will reward us as His followers for how we lived our lives for His glory.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt

1.) Is a greater faith

vs. 12-13

The Human Being by Design is a Faith-Based Creation.

Faith is both native to the human soul and is equally foreign.

We exercise faith every day and in many directions.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt

Is A Greater Faith

1a.) Faith in God's long-term plan

vs. 12a

:12a **Beloved**, do not think it strange concerning the **fiery trial which is to try** you,

Beloved grk: agapetos; a very dear one. one who is cherished.

Almost Constantly - the Bible speaks to us as being Loved or Desired or Pursued by God – He is the Initiator.

do not think it strange

Strange grk: xenizo; amazed or surprising. *ie* by a test or an exam that is conducted by the schoolmaster.

No student is surprised when, in his math class a test suddenly appears.

Tests are not to fail us or to destroy us, but rather to inform us that we are strong here but not so there.

Beloved, do not **think it strange** concerning the **fiery trial which is to try** you,

Fiery grk purosis; a furnace or oven, intense heat. goal being to refine and to perfect and to make pure. (not to destroy)

At times it's like a **microwave** heat and the "fire" is momentary. At other times it's like a **crockpot slow cooker** that's just below the boiling point and goes on for weeks, months even years.

Try grk: peirasmos; to bring us to the point of truth. to bring us face to face with reality

Job 23:10
But **He knows the way that I take;**
When He has **tested** me, I shall **come forth as gold.**

"Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also more hard to bear. The frequent attempt to conceal mental pain increases the burden: it is easier to say "My tooth is aching" than it is to say "My heart is broken."
— C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Psalm 34:18-19
The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

"Beloved" speaks to the fact that the church is a family.

Matthew 9:35-36
Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt Is A Greater Faith

1b.) Faith in God's appointments

vs. 12b-13a

:12b as though some **strange thing** (these **things**) happened to you;

strange grk: xenos; a foreign invader. An unknown stranger.

Christian – You're not being Invaded by Difficulty & Hardships!

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and **lean not** on your own **understanding**;

6 In all your ways (invasions) acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Verse 13a

13 but **rejoice** to the **extent** that you **partake** of Christ's **sufferings**

rejoice grk: chairo; to be glad at what you see or hear. to greet with gladness. to jump with joy at the opportunity to say hello or to welcome.

extent grk: katho; to the NTH degree. A mathematical term meaning to reveal the details to the most **minute level**.

Partake grk: koinoneo; to have a share in and of a life, a house, a family, an existence. to be one in all. divine unity.

This is the reason why we suffer. Suffering is God's prescription that can create in us a true and lasting Christian life.

to partake is to share in...

to join in with. to come alongside another, to walk together.

Romans 8:15-18

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. :18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Philippians 3:10

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt Is A Greater Faith

1c.) Faith in God's finished work

vs. 13b

that when His **glory** is **revealed**, you may also be **glad** with **exceeding joy**.

that **when** His **glory** is **revealed**,

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Psalm 138:8

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 to God our Savior, who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt

2.) Is a greater purpose

vs. 14-16

The Greater Purpose(s) of God Is Your Future Unveiling

1 John 3:1-3 NLT

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. 2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. 3 And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt Is A Greater Purpose

2a.) Understanding who we are

vs. 14

14 If you are **reproached** for the name of Christ, **blessed** are you, for the **Spirit of glory** and { the **Spirit of** } of **God** rests upon you. On their part He is **blasphemed**, but on your part He is **glorified**.

Peter “Since this is happening to you now - - just wait till later and it will all be worth it”.

2 Corinthians Chapter 1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**... :3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all **comfort**, 4 who **comforts** us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are **comforted** by God. 6a Now if we are **afflicted** :7a we know that as you are partakers of the **sufferings**, so also you will partake of the **consolation**.... :8b we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God

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 Corinthians 4:17

For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 3:8-10

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

2 Corinthians 4:8-12

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 7:5-6

For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were fears. 6 Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus (Bill, Mark, Kathy)

The Great Christian Paradox

“blessed are you when...”

The world interprets “blessed” as being rich or at ease. The world thinks that comfort, fame and looks is an indicator of God’s favor, not so!

Matthew 5:3-16

“**Blessed** (happy or well-faring) are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 **Blessed** are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 **Blessed** are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. 6 **Blessed** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 **Blessed** are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 **Blessed** are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 **Blessed** are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 **Blessed** are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “**Blessed** are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 **Rejoice** and be **exceedingly glad**, for **great is your reward in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. :13 (*here is the how come*) “You are the salt of the earth; (are you) but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. :14 “You are the light of the world. (are you) A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, (are you) that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (*will they?*)

DO NOT MISS THIS FACT

Dear Christian, Jesus is not going to replace your suffering with glory.
Jesus is going to transform your suffering into glory!

DO NOT MISS THIS FACT

Our magnitude of Suffering here and now determines our future reward by and by which in turn determines our future glory which will determine our future praise of Him!

Verse 14B

14B for the **Spirit of glory** and { the **Spirit of** } of **God rests upon** you.
On their part He is **blasphemed**, but on your part He is **glorified**.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has **righteousness** with **lawlessness**? And what communion has **light** with **darkness**? 15 And what accord has **Christ** with **Belial**? Or what part has a **believer** with an **unbeliever**? 16 And what agreement has the **temple of God** with **idols**? For **you are the temple of the living God**. As God has said: “*I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*”

the **Spirit of glory** and { the **Spirit of** } of **God**

rests

grk: anapauo; to give or to settle upon you His rest. To grant, grace, to give intermission from labor, toil and pressure. refreshing, to have renewal in a time of barrenness. (i.e. To have spring in the Midst of summer)

“The Spirit of the LORD is here”

Romans 5:3-5

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The Shekinah of the LORD is implied here,

Exodus 16:7

And in the morning you shall see the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness** of the Lord;

Exodus 24:16

Now the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness** of the Lord rested upon Mount Sinai, and the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness** covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness**

Exodus 29:43

And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My **Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness**

Exodus 40:34

Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness** of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

1 Kings 8:10-11

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness** filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the **Glory Dwelling Shekinah Luminousness** of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Acts 7:48-50

“However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, (His **Glory**) as the prophet says: 49 “Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest? 50 Has My hand not made all these things?”

Acts 7:54-56

55 But Stephen, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the **Glory Dwelling-Shekinah-Luminousness** of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, **56** and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened (eternal temple) and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

This “burning” of God’s glory reveals His purity and holiness.

Malachi 3:3

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Isaiah 48:10

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt Is A Greater Purpose

2b.) Understanding what we are not vs. 15

15 But let none of you suffer as a **murderer**, a **thief**, an **evildoer**, or as a **busybody** in other people’s matters.

Busybody grk: a meddler. to insert yourself into an issue or conversation with the intent to inform or to retell. A talebearer in matters that do not directly include you. akin to being a gossip, a gossiper looks for situations to insert themselves into to repeat.

What We Really Need When We Really Hurt Is A Greater Purpose

2c.) Understanding when things happen vs. 16

16 Yet if anyone **suffers** as a Christian, let him not be **ashamed**, but let him **glorify God** in this **matter**.

Pain, Suffering, Persecution
- all of our life’s troubles work to our benefit both now and in the end.

EVAL: 1

Persecution is a test that reveals our depth of devotion to God.

EVAL: 2

Difficulties challenge our convictions regarding our position (worldview)

James 1:12 NIV

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Ashamed **grk:** aischunomai, to become “disfigured” of soul by sorrow or embarrassment. To feel or to believe that you have been “disgraced” i.e. to feel or to believe that you have been abandoned or separated from God. to feel the shame of having been fooled or tricked. red-faced.

Philippians 1:20-21

according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

For those who are not Christians, the unsaved, they (you) are and will forever be controlled by your past.

But for the Christian, we are controlled by our future in Christ - and that will be forever!

**Because Only He Knows What We Really Need
When We Really Hurt**

End of Study

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