

Believers honor God by faithfulness through persecution.

**I. EXPECT RIDICULE (1 PETER 4:12-14)** <sup>12</sup> *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing<sup>a</sup>, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ<sup>b</sup>, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled [ridiculed] for the name of Christ, you are blessed<sup>c</sup>, because the Spirit of glory and of God<sup>d</sup> rests on you.*

**a--1 PETER 1:** <sup>6</sup> *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

**b--Acts 5:40-42** <sup>40</sup> *They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. <sup>41</sup> So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Their suffering was on account of their stand for Christ.*

**c--Matthew 5:11-12** <sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. The consistent biblical teaching: Suffering is the pathway to glory!*

**d--John 17:22-23** <sup>22</sup> *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; <sup>23</sup> I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

**How do you react to the concept that suffering is normal for Christians?**

**How seriously do you believe that you would rejoice if you were insulted because of your faith?**

**II. REPRESENT JESUS WELL (1 PETER 4:15-16)** <sup>15</sup> *Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer<sup>a</sup>, or thief<sup>b</sup>, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; <sup>16</sup> but if anyone suffers as a Christian<sup>c</sup>, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.*

**a--**6<sup>th</sup> commandment Exodus 20:13 & expanded to attitude of hating your brother in Matthew 5:21-26

**b--**8<sup>th</sup> commandment Exodus 20:15

**c--**"Christian" only used 2 other times in New Testament in Acts 11:26 *the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.* and Acts 26:28 *Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian."* In both instances the term may have been applied in disdain. In the rest of the NT the word "disciple" is used in 220 verses. See "Disciples or Christians" <https://thehlukejourney.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/why-i-am-involved-in-discipleship-training-153/> A 12/2015 Gallup Poll 75% of adults identified as Christians in the U.S., however John Dickerson said "Of America's 316 million residents, we evangelicals only account for about 22 to 28 million. This is only 7% to 9% of the population." For this reason I usually refer to members of the true family of God as either "disciples or believers".

**How do you counsel people who protest as unfair the suffering that results from their own moral lapses?**

### III. FOCUS ON THE CREATOR (1 PETER 4:17-19)

<sup>17</sup> *For it is time for judgment<sup>a</sup> to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? <sup>b</sup>*

<sup>19</sup> *Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall **entrust**<sup>c</sup> their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.*

**a-** evaluation resulting in either approval or disapproval, also see 1 Peter 1:7 purifying of gold;

**b-** Salvation is possible only by God's costly provision, the death of His Son. The only way for a rebel against God to become righteous is to receive this salvation freely, as God's gift, by faith. However, such persons are saved and yet experience suffering and difficulty. There is no such thing as easy salvation. The "those who do not obey the gospel of God & the GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER" will receive the fiery judgment of final condemnation in hell.

**c-** "entrust" to give something to someone for safekeeping and care. V.19 summary of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. Jesus said this on the cross: **Luke 23:46** ... "Father, into Your hands I **entrust** My spirit." HCSB **1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation<sup>a</sup> has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

**a--**NASB Word Usage of original Greek - Total: 21 temptation 12, testing 2, trial 3, trials 4

**How would you define the difference in the purpose of judgment for believers and unbelievers? Why would this be important to remember for believers?**

**Why do you think Peter emphasized God as Creator in verse 19? How does God's relationship to us as the Creator help us to trust Him more?**

**Summary/application:**

1. Do not be surprised at the fiery trials of persecution instead rejoice;
2. **because** the **Spirit of glory and of God** rests on you.
3. When suffering in the name of Christ while doing good, do not be ashamed but glorify God.
4. In these troubling times God may be [1] punishing those who reject Him and His people and/or [2] purging the people who falsely profess to be Christians so His true church will be revealed. The blood of the saints may be the seed for revival.

**5. Scripture Memory verse: 1 Peter 4:19** *let those who suffer according to God's will **entrust** their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. **ESV***

For all 1 Peter memory verses: <https://thelukejourney.wordpress.com/2016/09/21/1st-2nd-peter-memory-verses-242/>

6. **We can entrust our lives to God** because: "a. God alone is sovereign over creation & preservation of the universe, over governments, over individual lives, etc.; however each individual is not released from responsibility for their actions. b. God is good. c. Our path has been marked by examples in the Bible & history, d. Trust is a decision."

From The Peacemaker by Ken Sande Chapter 3 "Trust In the Lord and do Good"  
This has book has been part of my personal Bible study for several months. It is full of scripture and I have found that in His scripture God is serious about our living in peace. See link for outline and scripture for chapter 3.

<https://thelukejourney.wordpress.com/2016/10/13/scripture-for-the-peacemaker-by-ken-sande-251/>