

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1 Peter 4:12-19

Faith in the Furnace

Getting Started

Have you ever endured suffering because of your faith in Christ? Describe your experience.

Digging In

1. **Read 1 Pet 4:12-19.** Write down your first impressions.
2. **Read v. 12.** What is Peter's first point? Why do you think he begins in this way? Why would this be so helpful for his readers?
3. **Read vv. 13-14.** Why should we rejoice? What do you think it means to *participate in the sufferings of Christ*?
4. How can this assurance help us to endure suffering in this world?
5. Why do you think this will cause us to be *overjoyed* in the future when Christ is revealed in all his glory?
6. How can it be a blessing if we are insulted for being Christians?
7. **Read vv. 15-18.** How can we suffer for the wrong reasons? Give 2 examples of what this might look like today.
8. Why should we **not** be ashamed to suffer as Christians?
9. How can suffering have a purifying purpose for God's people?
10. **Read v. 19.** How does Peter summarize his teaching on the Christian's response to suffering? Write a paraphrase of v. 19.



Getting Personal

- What can we do to make sure that any suffering we encounter is indeed because of bearing the name of Christ?
- How can the phrase *according to God's will* in v. 19 be a comfort to us?
- Peter tells those who suffer to *commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good*. How does this contrast with our natural response to being ill-treated?
- How is God speaking to you personally through this passage?