

1 Peter 4

Living for God

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.² You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.³ You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.

⁴ Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you.⁵ But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.⁶ That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.

⁷ The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

1 Peter 4

Suffering for Being a Christian

¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

¹⁴ If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? ¹⁸ And also,

“If the righteous are barely saved,
what will happen to godless sinners?”

¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

Suffering

Love one another

Fiery trials

Serve one another

Living differently

1 Peter 4: Themes

Be hospitable

Being
misunderstood
and rejected

Use the gifts God
has given to you

Being insulted

Accountability

Suffering

Love one another

Fiery trials



1 Peter 4: Themes



Use the gifts God
has given to you

Living

Misunderstanding
& rejection

Insults

Accountability

Suffering

Love one another

Fiery trials

1 Peter 4: Themes



Use the gifts God
has given to you

Insults

Accountability

Liv

Mi

& rejection

You are loved by God

- The love of God is the heart of our faith.
- If we are to thrive as followers of Christ, we need to know that we are loved by God.
- It is essential that we allow his love to shape and define us.

Loved & cherished

- You are loved and cherished by God.
 - God was not satisfied to allow the sin on our lives and in this world to keep us apart from him so he put into action a rescue plan where his son Jesus paid our ransom. We are asked to believe and follow him & in doing so our relationship with God is restored, we are welcomed into his family and we have hope for this life and beyond.
- God is with you - beside you, before you & behind you.
 - We can call upon God anywhere and at any time. He will lead you and equip you. He will do more than we could ask or imagine so when things are confusing, don't mistaken into thinking you've been abandoned.
- He is faithful and unwavering.
 - There are no lies or deceit in God. He doesn't sneak around or trick you for personal gain. Even our own unbelief does not change God's authority, his character or his integrity. He is always honest, always true, always dependable.
- You can trust him and lean heavily upon him.
 - God invites us to come to him; to share our lives with him – the every day, the celebrations and the trials.

Suffering

- Living for Jesus has repercussions & some of these might be painful (1 Peter 4:2-4)
 - Philippians 3: 7-8, status, personal achievements & approval from others are pitiful in comparison to trusting in the righteousness of Jesus for our salvation and following with the hope of walking with him for ever.
- My life is not my own (1 Peter 2:2)
 - When our hearts are won for God & we choose to follow Jesus, we entrust the days of our lives to a better goal. Luke 9: 23-27.
- No-one looks for suffering but troubles can't always be avoided (1 Peter 4:12)
 - Hard times can't always be dodged and they are so much easier to endure when we are open to God through them.
- Suffering for Christ is never wasted (1 Peter 4: 13-14)
 - Romans 5:3-5, Romans 8:28 & Genesis 50:20.

You are in good company!

- Jesus suffered, he did not live a comfortable life (1 Peter 4:1 & 13)
- His priorities were connection to God and sharing the truth with others.
- He was intentional in spending time with God.
- Jesus used both words and actions to share the truth and glory of God.
- Jesus was often counter-cultural – his company was unexpected, he was aligned with God's authority so didn't pander to societies rulers, he was loving and humble showing service and caring for the marginalized.
- Jesus was criticized, misunderstood, falsely accused, beaten and killed.
- God's truth remained, Jesus paid our ransom and he was restored to the side of God in heaven.

Don't be discouraged

- We stand alongside Jesus when we suffer for him & do what is good and right (1 Peter 4:13).
- The truth of God remains – our, or other peoples, belief or unbelief does not alter the authority and integrity of God.
- Embrace God's truth – seek it, soak it up, let it mold you and guide you.
- Hard times are not wasted when we walk with God
 - They align us with Christ (1 Peter 4: 13-14, Romans 8: 17) & can bring us closer to him.
 - Romans 5: 3-5 They develop our character & build our faith.
- Suffering will not last forever & is nothing compared to the glory of God that awaits his children (Romans 8:18).

Don't be knocked off course

- We all face hard times, how we respond distinguishes us from the world: follow the example of Christ who looked beyond personal relief to fulfilling God's will (Luke 19:10, Mark 10:45).
- You are walking with greatness when you follow the Lord Almighty – be proud to belong to him.
- You belong in his family – be comforted to call him Father.
- Don't be drawn into chasing after anything less (1 Peter 4:3)
 - It will bear perishable fruit & distance you from God and his people – you miss out & so do we.
- Hebrews 12: cast off anything that is keeping you from living for God, lean in to the example of Jesus and trust that he is working with you and through you.

Keep your faith vibrant

- Be earnest in your prayers (1 Peter 4:7)
- Love others (1 Peter 4:8)
 - Hebrews 6: 10-12 *For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.*
- Practice hospitality (1 Peter 4:9)
- Other giftings (1 Peter 4: 10-11 - speaking & helping others, 1 Corinthians 12)
 - 1 Corinthians 12:6-7 *God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so that we can help others.*
- Employ your gifting to serve on another humbly with love (Galatians 5:13) & do so with all the strength and energy that God supplies (1 Peter 4:11).

We are all key workers

- The diversity of God's people is fully intentional and tremendously valuable.
- Be eager to use your skills and talents for God. Be aware also of the things that you care about – allow God to guide you through these.
- Like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, each of us is precious and valuable with a key role to play in the kingdom of God.
- Don't be mislead & sit back and let others step out in your place.
- Don't withdraw and assume your absence is insignificant.
- Lean into him to provide for every challenge and be inspired that God blesses all that you do in his name.
- Together we can share God's love and truth, bringing love, hope and joy to others.

Loved & cherished

Unwavering truth

Be all in for Christ

Walking with greatness

Hard times have
purpose

1 Peter 4: Themes

Equipped with gifts

Building character

Serve others

Drawing us closer
to God

Building God's
kingdom