

Berean Christian Church
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Bible Study

April 14, 2020

Suggestions for Effectively Handling Suffering

I Peter 4:12-16

II Timothy 3:12 reads, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (NKJV) This verse reveals that any believer who exhibits Christian behavior will experience trials, troubles and tribulation. Accepting Jesus as Savior will not exempt believers from problems, pains or pressure that unbelievers encounter. However, children of God should take comfort in knowing that they don’t have to respond to dilemmas, difficulties and disasters the way the world does. This lesson is designed to share elements needed to effectively handle suffering as a Christian.

Breakdown of I Peter Chapter 4

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The _____ for Suffering. | Verse 1 |
| 2. The _____ about Suffering. | Verses 2-11 |
| 3. The _____ to Suffering. | Verses 12-19 |

1. Your _____ can help you effectively handle suffering as a Christian.

Verse 1

“Since Jesus went through everything you’re going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way.” (MSG)

2. Your _____ can help you effectively handle suffering as a Christian.

Verses 1, 2

“Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh [and died for us], arm yourselves [like warriors] with the same purpose [being willing to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing God], because whoever has suffered in the flesh [being like-minded with Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [having stopped pleasing the world], 2) so that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living for human appetites and desires, but [lives] for the will and purpose of God.” (AMP)

(Over)

3. Your _____ can help you effectively handle suffering as a Christian.

Verses 3, 4

“For the time already past is [more than] enough for doing what the [unsaved] Gentiles like to do—living [unrestrained as you have done] in a course of [shameless] sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries. 4) In [connection with] all this, they [the unbelievers] are resentful and surprised that you do not [think like them, value their values and] run [hand in hand] with them into the same excesses of dissipation and immoral freedom, and they criticize and abuse and ridicule you and make fun of your values.” (AMP)

4. Your _____ can help you effectively handle suffering as a Christian.

Verses 10, 11

“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.” (NLT)

5. Your _____ can help you effectively handle suffering as a Christian.

Verse 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.” (NLT)

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