

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR FAITH'S ON TRIAL

There are three kinds of suffering in life...

- \_\_\_\_\_ suffering --
- \_\_\_\_\_ suffering --
- \_\_\_\_\_ suffering --

Peter says that there are four things you need to do when you suffer as a Christian.

#### I. \_\_\_\_\_ **THAT SUFFERING IS BOUND TO HAPPEN.**

1 Peter 4:12 "Dear friends, **do not be surprised** at the painful trials you're suffering, as though something strange were happening to you."

John 15:20 Jesus said, "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also."  
Ephesians 6:12 "We're not fighting against human beings but wicked spiritual forces."

#### II. \_\_\_\_\_ **WHEN SUFFERING DOES HAPPEN.**

1 Peter 4:13-14 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Three reasons to rejoice in our sufferings...

1. Suffering draws me \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Phil. 3:10
2. You'll receive a \_\_\_\_\_! Matthew 5:11-12 2  
Corinthians 4:17, Romans 8:17
3. It means that God can be \_\_\_\_\_ in my life.

#### III. \_\_\_\_\_ **TO BE ASHAMED.**

1 Peter 4:15-18 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, **do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.** For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

Mark 8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

The antidote to the fear of rejection is two fold:

1. Realize that you don't need the \_\_\_\_\_ of everybody in order to be \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
2. Be more concerned with what \_\_\_\_\_ thinks about you, than what other \_\_\_\_\_ think about you.

#### IV. \_\_\_\_\_ **FAITHFUL TO GOD!**

1 Peter 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should **commit themselves to their faithful Creator** and continue to do good.

Lamentations 3:19-23 I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; **great is your faithfulness.**