

The Refiner's Furnace

1 Peter 4:12-19

Suffering is a fiery PURIFICATION of faith.

1 Peter 4:12

When suffering...

- Do not be SURPRISED, but REJOICE.

1 Peter 4:12-14

- Do not give way to shameful SIN, but GLORIFY God.

1 Peter 4:15-18

- ENTRUST your life to God by continuing to do GOOD.

1 Peter 4:19

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. What are some wrong ways that sometimes we view suffering? According to 1 Peter 4:12, how should we view suffering and trials?
2. Explain how the picture of a refiner's fire helps us understand our suffering. (see 1 Peter 1:6-7, Malachi 3:1-5, Isa 48:10, Zech 13:7-19, Jer 2:27-28).
3. Have you ever faced persecution or suffering for Christ? How have you seen God use suffering to shape your character throughout your life?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. Why do you think Peter encourages his readers to not be surprised? What does surprise at suffering indicate?
5. What encouragements does Peter offer in 4:12-14 that allow us to rejoice in the midst of suffering? See also Acts 5:40-41, 16:24-25; Phil 3:10; Col 1:24; Rom 5:3-4; James 1:2-3, 1:12; 2 Cor 4:17, 12:9.
6. What suffering have you been dealing with recently that God wants to use in your life to refine you? What is the furnace in your life?
7. How can suffering cause us to be tempted to sin? How does 1 Peter 4:15-18 relate suffering and coming judgment (see Zech 13:7-9; Mal 3:1-5)
8. Read 1 Peter 4:19. This week how can you entrust your soul to God? What good might He call you to in the midst of this?