

THE FIERY TRIAL
1 Peter 4:12-19

INTRODUCTION:

The central theme of 1 Peter is victory through trials and suffering. Peter reminded Christians that their hope is in Christ and that their new identity as God's chosen people give them the strength to stand firm.

- “Christianity is not the removal of suffering, but the addition of Grace to endure suffering triumphantly.” – Thomas Watson

In this message, we will meditate on six characteristics of Fiery Trials:

- I. **EXPECT SUFFERING** (v. 12)
 - A. We Should Not Think that Suffering is Strange (2 Tim 3:12; James 1:2-4)
 - B. The Purpose of The “Fiery Trial” (1 Pet 1:6-7)
 - C. You are not Alone (1 Cor 10:13)
- II. **REJOICE IN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST** (v. 13)
 - A. Share in (Be Partakers in) Christ's Suffering (v. 13a)
 - B. Look to the Future (v. 13b; Acts 5:41)
- III. **SUFFER AS A CHRISTIAN, NOT AN EVILDOER** (vv. 15-16)
 - A. Check Your Action (v. 15; 1 Thess 4:11; 2 Thess 3:11; 1 Tim 5:3)
 - B. Wear the Name “Christian” – Proudly (v. 16a)
 - C. Bring Glory to God (v. 16b; Matt 5:16)
- IV. **UNDERSTAND GOD'S JUDGMENT** (vv. 17-18)
 - A. Judgment begins with the church – the family of God (v. 17a)
 - B. The Outcome for the Lost (v. 17b)
 - C. A Serious Warning (v. 18; Rev 20:15; Matt 25:31-34, 41, 46)
- V. **CONTINUE DOING GOOD** (v. 19a)
 - A. Stay on the Right Path (v. 19; Matt 5:10-12)
 - B. Be a Light in the Dark (1 Pet 2:12)
 - C. Follow Christ's Example (Acts 10:38; Gal 6:9; 1 Cor 15:58)
- VI. **ENTRUST YOUR SOUL TO GOD – THE “FAITHFUL CREATOR”** (v. 19b)
 - A. Give God Control of Your Life (1 Pet 5:7; Ps 31:5)
 - B. God is the Faithful Creator (Heb 13:5-6)
 - C. Believers Can Rest in God's Peace (Prov 3:5-6)

CONCLUSION:

- A. In conclusion, the fiery trials we face as Christians are never meant to destroy us, but to refine us into the image of Jesus Christ.
- B. A-B-C's of Salvation
- C. Closing Prayer

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“...the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).