



Unjust Suffering

1 Peter 4:12 - 5:11

“1 Peter: The Gift of Suffering”

1 Peter 4:12—5:11

December 18, 2024

INTRO: Is this a White Elephant/Gag Gift?



Why Must We Suffer? – The Gift’s Purpose

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

⇒ **To Make Us Like Christ – Refine Us - Sanctification “make Holy, set apart, consecrate”**

Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter:6-7

Hypertrophy (____)/Butterfly Struggle (____)/Eagle Stirs Up the Nest (____)

⇒ **To Cause us to Draw Near/Depend/Rely on his Strength**

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 ... For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

“Suffering is a gift because it reveals the insufficiency of everything but God.”

– **John Piper, *Suffering: For the Joy Set Before You***

“Suffering can refine us rather than destroy us because God himself walks with us in the fire.”

– **Timothy Keller, *Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering***

⇒ **Pathway to Glory – Those that have “Saving” Faith must Persevere till the End**

Acts 14:22through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison

John Newton – Broken Carriage

How to Suffer Well? – The Gift’s Instructions

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

⇒ Clothe “Put on” Humility – Christian Attire/Uniform (Colossians 3:12)



Humility = _____ + _____ + _____ + _____

The disposition of the heart to be pleased with the infinite superiority of Christ over us in every way or more simply stated it's the hearts gladness that Jesus is infinitely greater than we are. – John Piper, The Uncommon Virtue of Humility

Matthew 23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (See also **James 4:10**)

Philippians 2:1-11 (Christ’s Perfect Humility)

⇒ Cast your Anxieties → He Cares (Matthew 11:28-30)

- 31.9%, 61%, 70%
- How we deal with Anxiety? R.E.S.T Formula

Luke 21:34-35 But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. (See also **Matt 13:22**)

Fear Not...Entrust your Soul – The Gift’s Assurance

Isaiah 41:10

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. **1 Peter 2:23** ...when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

God is too good to be unkind, and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart. – Charles Spurgeon

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