



CONNECTION QUESTION

Have there ever been times in your life when you have suffered hardship because of your own stupidity?

BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE

> Read 1 Peter 4:12-13.

What did Peter see in the image of fire that is beneficial in the life of a Christian as it pertains to trials and suffering? Are all difficulties in life necessarily fiery trials? Why or why not?

Can you think of examples in the Bible where God brings glory to his name through the suffering of his people?

How can Pastor Saeed (imprisoned in Iran for his faith for multiple years) rejoice in his suffering? When you suffer, how can you rejoice in your suffering?

> Read 1 Peter 4:14-16.

Read Luke 6:22-23. How does God bless us in the midst of suffering for his name?

Read 1 Peter 2:12, 15; 3:9, 16; 4:4, 16. What type of suffering is Peter referring to in these verses, physical or



verbal? What would this look like in your workplace? What would God's blessing in this suffering look like?

What questions should we ask ourselves when we suffer? Why is it important to know the reasons for our suffering?

> Read 1 Peter 4:17-19; Ezekiel 9:6.

How does knowing God's refining judgment begins with the household of God help you understand the trials Christians face in this life?

What does it mean to "entrust" yourself to God? Why can we entrust ourselves to God and continue to do good in the midst of trials?

Read Proverbs 11:31, which Peter quotes in v. 18. It compares the life of the righteous on earth with the sinner in eternity. How does the refinement through suffering Christians experience on earth compare to the judgment facing those who die apart from Christ?

NEXT STEPS

> Read Philippians 1:12-14.

Do you find yourself feeling more courageous to talk about your faith knowing that you are blessed when you are persecuted and the great wrath those apart from Christ face?