

What Makes Suffering For Christ Unique?

1. Suffering for Christ is expected.

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. 1 Peter 4:12 (ESV)

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 1 John 3:13 (ESV)

“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. Luke 6:26 (ESV)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

2. Suffering for Christ is good for me.

1. Suffering for Christ purifies my faith.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. Psalm 66:10 (ESV)

2. Suffering for Christ proves my faith.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6–7 (ESV)

And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. Luke 8:13 (ESV)

3. Suffering for Christ carries a blessing.

1. Suffering for Christ carries a future blessing.

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice (be super rejoiced) and be glad when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:13 (ESV)

It is a badge of honor to suffer because I am like Jesus.

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. Acts 5:41 (ESV)

From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. Galatians 6:17 (ESV)

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, Philippians 1:29 (ESV)

The degree of my earthly suffering for Christ corresponds to the degree of my eternal joy with Christ.

...that you may also rejoice (be super rejoiced) and be glad when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:13 (ESV)

Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?...” Matthew 20:22 (ESV)

and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:17 (ESV)

2. Suffering for Christ carries an earthly blessing.

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 1 Peter 4:14 (ESV)

And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Acts 6:15 (ESV)

But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7:55 (ESV)

4. If I suffer, make sure it is for being a Christian.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 1 Peter 4:15–16 (ESV)

and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 1 Thessalonians 4:11 (ESV)

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 (ESV)

5. Suffering for Christ now is nothing compared to suffering for all of eternity later.

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” 1 Peter 4:17–18 (ESV)

If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner! Proverbs 11:31 (ESV)

If indeed the righteous is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and sinful appear? Proverbs 11:31 (LES)

6. When it is God’s will that I suffer, trust my soul into God’s hands and continue doing good.

Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. 1 Peter 4:19 (ESV)



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