



Part 3 - How Do I Live In A Pressure Cooker Without Getting Burned?

I Peter 4:12-19

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I. INTRODUCTION

There are four kinds of suffering in life.

1. The first is an every day, ordinary kind of suffering. This comes by just being a **human being**.
2. The second kind is suffering because of **sin**.
3. The third kind of suffering is suffering because of our **Christian commitment**.
4. The fourth kind of suffering is suffering that comes from a time of **testing by God**.

II. REMEMBER THAT GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES IS **NORMAL**. (1 Peter 4:12)

The very fact that you are a serious Christian means that there will be some kinds of suffering you will experience because of your **commitment** to Christ.

*John 15:20 "Jesus said, "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they **will** persecute you also."*

*James 1:2 (NKJV) "My brethren, count it all joy **when** you fall into various trials..."*

III. CHOOSE TO RESPOND WITH THE RIGHT **ATTITUDE**. (1 Peter 4:13-14)

Rejoicing in trials means that we **choose** to have a positive attitude in spite of it. Why would I want to have a positive attitude when I am suffering?

1. Suffering draws us **closer to God**. (1 Peter 4:13)

*1 Peter 4:13 (NLT) "Instead, be very glad—because these trials will make you **partners** with Christ in his suffering, and afterward you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory when it is displayed to all the world."*

*a. The word "partner" In Greek is the word koinonia, which is the word for fellowship. Fellowship means you get to know somebody **up close** and **personal**.*

Philippians 3:10 "I want to know Christ and the fellowship of His suffering."

2. We can rejoice in suffering because through it God can be **seen** in our life. (1 Peter 4:14)

3. We can rejoice in the tough times because through them, God is showing that He can **trust** us.

IV. STAY **CONFIDENT** IN GOD. (1 Peter 4:16)

A. When we suffer because of our relationship with God that puts us in **great company**.

B. Don't be embarrassed for your faith and your values. Instead, **stand firm**.

C. Here is the bigger principle: No matter what is the **source** of your pain, stay focused and confident in God.

V. KEEP IN MIND THE **REWARD** YOU'LL RECEIVE ONE DAY.

II Corinthians 4:17 "These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!"

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Notes:
