



DIFFERENT IN THE FIRE

1 Peter 4:12 – 19

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MESSAGE NOTES

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ...
– 1 Peter 1:6 (ESV)

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. – 1 Peter 2:19 (NIV)

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed ... – 1 Peter 3:14 (ESV)

- **RETHINK THE FIRE: Because God is forming us in the fire**

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)

- **MEET JESUS IN THE FIRE: Because God is with us in the fire**

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. 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 4:13 – 14 (ESV)

- **TRUST GOD IN THE FIRE: Because God carries us through the fire**

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)

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)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In 1 Peter 4:12–19, Peter reminds us that fiery trials are not a sign that God has abandoned us, but often a place where He is forming us and revealing His presence. As God's beloved children, we can endure with hope, knowing that Christ meets us in the fire and that our faithful Creator can bring new life even from the ashes.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: When you were growing up, what was something you thought would be terrible but later realized helped shape you into who you are today?
- Read 1 Peter 4:12-13. Peter tells believers not to be surprised by "the fiery trial." Why do you think suffering often surprises us? What does Peter say God may be doing through those trials?
- Read Matthew 16:21-23. Peter once resisted the idea of a suffering Messiah, but now he teaches believers not to be surprised by suffering. What do you think changed in Peter? What can we learn from his growth?
- Peter begins by calling Christ followers "Beloved." Why do you think he starts there before talking about fiery trials? How does remembering that we are loved by God change the way we face suffering and challenges?
- Read 1 Peter 4:13-14. Peter connects suffering, glory, and blessing in a way that feels upside down. Why does the world often see suffering as weakness while Peter sees it as a place where God's glory can be revealed?
- Read 1 Peter 4:19 again. What is one practical next step of obedience God may be calling you to take right now, even in the middle of a challenge, disappointment, or uncertainty? How can your group pray for you as you take that step?
- Peter calls believers to entrust themselves to a "faithful Creator" while continuing to do good. Why do you think Peter uses the title "faithful Creator" here? What does this reveal about God's character, and how does that truth encourage you to trust Him in difficult seasons?