



October 6, 2024
Part 8: *Why Does God Let Us Suffer?*
1 Peter 4:12-19

Opening Question: Think of some of the hardest things you've ever been through. How did those experiences shape or change you?

What is the difference between the ways the world and the Bible define "blessings"?
(See Matthew 5:3-10, James 1:12, Jeremiah 17:7)

1 Peter 4:12-16, 19 - Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name... Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Who was Peter writing to, and how were they suffering?

How is this passage about pain and suffering relatable to people like us today?

The Bible breaks our suffering down into three categories:

- 1. We suffer because of _____.**
Examples:
- 2. We suffer because of _____.**
Examples:
- 3. We suffer because we _____.**
Examples:

In today's passage, how did Peter encourage Christians to respond to suffering?

Is our pain and suffering something that God allows? What does the Bible say?
(see Zechariah 13:9, Isaiah 48:10, Proverbs 17:3, 1 Peter 1:7)

Why does God allow believers to endure trials? (See James 1:2-4)

How have you experienced spiritual growth and maturity through life's difficulties?

Your Notes: