



Suffering Grief

(Not Surprised By It, Able to Rejoice In It!)

The Normal Christian Life

1 Peter 1:3-9,13

“Ever since the Garden of Eden, suffering has been woven into the fabric of the human experience. We all ‘live and move and have our being’ amid sin’s wreckage. It is the Christian worldview, the Gospel alone, that offers true stability through the darkest hours of suffering.”

Matt Smethhurst and Don Carson

Suffering is a result of true conversion. Following the One True God requires that we abandon all the ‘gods’ of popular culture and society. When our beliefs, morality and practices are not normal, they are exceptional, which makes them oppositional. If we face no opposition, when living in a non-Christian culture, we are surely ‘fitting in to get along.’ If we do anything that pushes against the norms of the world, there will always be hard push back. Peter says to expect it, and to rejoice in it, because it is proving your faith genuine.”

Daniel Doriani

“If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire; if you want to be wet you must get into the water.

If you want joy... you must get close to, or even into, what offers it.

Joy is a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very center of reality.

If you are close to it, the spray will wet you; if you are not, you will remain dry.”

C.S. Lewis

“To know that nothing happens in God’s world apart from God’s will may frighten the godless, but it stabilizes the saints.”

J.I. Packer

“For the Christian, there is a purpose to our suffering, and if faced rightly, it drives us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual hope than you can imagine.”

Tim Keller

*Burdens now may crush me down, disappointments all around;
troubles bring a mournful sigh, sorrow and a tear-stained eye.*

*Harder yet will be the fight; right may often yield to might;
wickedness a while may reign; Satan's cause may seem to gain.*

*But there's a God that rules above with hand of power and heart of love;
and if I'm right, he'll fight my battle, I shall have peace someday.*

Charles Albert Tindley (*Beams of Heaven*)

I. We Are Called to SUFFER *Do Not Surprised by Many Grievs in this Life!*

A. We Will Suffer Many Miseries (*Enduring Life in a Sinful World*)

B. We Will Suffer Various Persecutions (*for Faith in Christ*)

Matthew 5:10-11, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, Hebrews 12:11

II. But, We Are Able to REJOICE *Not a Trite Platitude or Facade!*

A. About that Joy.....**James 1:2-3**

B. It is “Inexpressible” (**vs. 8**)

III. Because Our HOPE is Set Elsewhere *The Sure Hope of “Some Day”*

A. Our Hope is “Set” (*like fixed concrete, not wet cement!*) and is “Elsewhere” **Matt. 5:12**

B. Our Hope Defines Us (Our Past, Present and Future, *By Faith*) **Romans 5:1-5**

1 Peter 1:3-9, 13

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to **suffer grief** in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are **filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy**, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, **set your hope** on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hebrews 12:7, 11

7 Endure hardship as discipline....

11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

James 1: 2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

1 John 4:4

He who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.