

God's Plan and Promise for Suffering Saints - 1 Peter 1:3-9 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

A journey through 1 Peter.

1. God's priority: our salvation through faith in Him (1 Peter 1:3-5)
2. God's plan: purify our faith through trials (1 Peter 1:6-7)
3. God's plan: propagate our faith at home (1 Peter 3:1-17)
4. God's plan: proclaim our faith without fear (1 Peter 4:16)
5. God's promise: perfect our faith as a firm foundation (1 Peter 5:10)

The past four years have been full of trials and suffering on a global scale. The church has not been protected from the virus, the isolation of lockdowns, the economic woes of record inflation, the disaster in the educational system, and marriage and family crisis, etc., etc. Rather than promising a rose-colored existence strolling through life without a care or concern, the Bible teaches us that God not only allows us to face various trials, but He guarantees we will face trials as part of the bigger purpose He's accomplishing on our lives.

Contrary to a popular teaching that God's priority is to make us healthy, wealthy, and happy beyond our wildest dreams, the entire New Testament is full of promises regarding the suffering of the believer to accomplish God's true priority: the maturing of our faith that brings us salvation.

1 Peter 1:3-7 reminds the suffering saint that God's primary focus isn't on our temporary comfort, but rather on our eternal life with Him. He has sovereignly chosen us for salvation by faith. Our faith isn't a simple intellectual assent, but rather a growing and developing decision to depend on God's power above our own. Faith grows and strengthens like the muscles in our body that grow stronger the more weight we put on them at the gym. God's gym for our faith is the trials and suffering He allows us to experience.

1 Peter 3:1-17 explains that the growth of our faith during suffering accomplishes God's plan to propagate our faith. This is especially true at home where the intimacy of marriage puts the sincerity of our faith on display for our spouse. God uses our living faith to provoke new faith in every relationship in our lives. The most powerful testimony given by the suffering saint is the glory he gives to God during trials. 1 Peter 4:16 promises that there is no more powerful tool for God to reach the unbelieving world than the testimony of a suffering believer who glorifies God.

The good news taught by 1 Peter 5:10 is that our suffering is worth it. God promises to "restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" A mature believer with a faith tested by the fires of suffering stands on a firm foundation. A mature believer can "Count it all joy" (James 1:2-4) when the next trial comes his way because he's experienced the purifying power of suffering.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Ezekiel 41	Ezekiel 42	Ezekiel 43	Ezekiel 44	Ezekiel 45	Ezekiel 46	Ezekiel 47

Reading from this past week: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Micah 4:1-13

Family Worship

Song - *Living Hope*

<https://youtu.be/ifFovH-dhHw?si=D72itvCVukIzPhjS>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Arrest of Jesus

Story: Jesus was arrested

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus our perfect Priest?

Answer: Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.

Scripture: Mark 14

New City Catechism

Question #43: What are the sacraments and ordinances?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Verse: Romans 6:4, Luke 22:19-20

Scripture

1 Peter 1:3-9

- How do we naturally react to suffering in our lives? What is our human response when faced with a trial?
- What are the key attitudes necessary to experience the growth of our faith during periods of suffering?
- How can learning from a more mature Christian help a new believer mature in his or her faith? As a mature believer, are you actively seeking out new believers who could benefit from your experience?
- How does having an appreciation of the eternal reward affect your experience during the periods of trial in your life?

Prayer

*Pray for those you know who are suffering and hurting.

*Pray for Dave & Brenda Meyer and their family, our church planting missionaries to Ecuador.

*Spend time reading, learning, and teaching your kids the Nicene Creed. Use the fourth stanza as a prayer declaring belief in gift of the Holy Spirit.