

Security & Suffering
1 Peter 4:12-19

“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages.”

-Charles Spurgeon

I. **Our Approach to Suffering**

II. Our Assurance in Suffering

Into the Bible

It is important to recognize that the suffering in 1 Peter is not natural suffering like the fire caused but malicious suffering because of our identification with Christ. In verse 12 the fiery ordeal has the purpose of testing us or in other translations trying us (KJV) or proving us (ASV). This is not a test to see if we will fail. How does God use the fire of suffering with his children? (Isaiah 48:10, 1 Peter 1:7, Psalm 66:10-12, 1 Corinthians 3:13)

Compare our suffering in the here and now (2 Corinthians 4:17) with the suffering of the unrepentant under God's judgment (Romans 2:5-10). For us, earthly suffering at its worst is truly as bad as it ever will be but for sinners, any joy in this life is the best they can ever hope for.

Application

What is the reason we can endure and even rejoice in suffering for doing what is right? (Galatians 6:7-9, Lamentations 3:22-23, Hebrews 10:23)

For Families

Talk with your children about the joys to come that God promises in our future.