



# Pilgrim Home Baptist Church

NT 2022 Q4 • WHAT TO DO WITH TRIALS • 1 PETER 4:1-19 • 9/11/2022

## MAIN POINT

We must continue serving others and glorifying God as we share in Christ's sufferings.

## INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**When was a time you suffered for doing the right thing?**

**Have you ever witnessed a fellow believer suffering hardship because of his or her faithfulness to Christ? Did you stand in solidarity with the believer? Describe the experience.**

**In what ways might our suffering be a benefit, not only to us but also to the world around us?**

Jesus experienced trials and hardships of all varieties, so it follows that we too will experience trials. As James MacDonald asserts in today's session, Jesus understood that He was suffering according to the will of the Father and so He did not refuse the trials before Him. Likewise, believers today must understand that there are trials ahead; rather than becoming bitter, we ought to embrace the trials God has set before us, knowing that the end is for our good and for His glory.

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ READ 1 PETER 4:1-6.

**In what ways has Christ's suffering changed your life?**

**What kind of suffering have you endured and how has it helped you identify with Christ in His suffering?**

**In what ways does Christ's suffering give meaning to your own suffering?**

**Why is suffering for Christ better than the pleasures of sin?**

Christ paid a steep price and endured great suffering in order to purchase us back from sin. As James MacDonald explains, Jesus knew His ministry was leading Him to the cross. He was not surprised by His suffering. As those who recognize Christ's suffering as the payment for our redemption, we no longer have an excuse for living in sin. As blood-bought sons and daughters of God, we were meant for more than the sins of our past. However, we will certainly be tempted by sin and tested by trials, so we must arm ourselves with the Lord's attitude, following the example He set for us.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ READ 1 PETER 4:7-11.

**What comes to mind when you think of loving someone deeply?**

**How might loving someone deeply help him or her during his or her trials?**

**What does it mean for love to cover a multitude of sins?**

**According to this passage, what is the outcome of serving with God's strength?**

James MacDonald explains that love does not hide sin or allow a person to put themselves at risk because of someone else's sinful behavior. Rather, love overlooks the minor shortcomings of others and compels us to serve them as stewards of God's grace. Like James MacDonald explains, a person's gifts are supernatural opportunities that give them greater capacity to serve God. Life is a vapor, and as those redeemed through Christ's sufferings, we should spend our days using our gifts to serve others gladly to the praise of Jesus Christ and the glory of God.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 4:12-19.

**Why are we so often surprised by our trials?**

**Have you ever suffered insult for Christ? Explain.**

As believers, it should not be a shock to our systems when we experience trials. As this passage teaches, we partake in Christ's sufferings now, but we will partake in His joy forevermore. However, the trials we face for Christ must not be confused with the suffering we experience as a

result of our sins. As James MacDonald says, sin will over promise and under-deliver every time. Sin will always promise pleasure but will always reap suffering and hardship instead.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Have you been preparing yourself to endure trials for the glory of God? How?**

**How might we be encouraged by the truth that we suffer “according to the will of God”?**

## PRAYER

Thank God for His grace through every trial. Ask for His help as you seek to entrust yourself to Him, even in suffering.

## COMMENTARY

| 1 PETER 4:1-19

4:1-6 Peter commanded believers as temporary residents who looked to Christ as their example to suffer and separate themselves from the practices of those who slandered them. God will condemn the slanderers and vindicate believers in heaven’s court.

4:5 The living and the dead means anyone who has ever lived, or people of all generations.

4:6 Those who are now dead seems to refer to deceased believers in Christ. When they were alive, the gospel was preached to them. While on earth they were judged by men in the fleshly realm, or condemned and martyred on account of the gospel. But they now live by God in the spiritual realm, heaven.

4:7-11 Peter commanded believers to maintain their unity while doing everything to God’s glory.

4:8 The phrase love covers a multitude of sins means that love repeatedly forgives (Pr 10:12).

4:9 When being persecuted, it is easy to snipe and complain even at other believers; thus Peter’s command to be hospitable to one another.

4:10 The words based on the gift each one has received refer to a spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are divine endowments that God entrusts to believers as stewards.

4:11 Christians should manage and use their spiritual gifts to God's glory, just as God intends.

4:12-19 Peter declared that believers are to rejoice in the test that suffering brings for being members of God's household. Suffering for Christ in this world characterizes believers as strangers, with heaven as their future place of eternal residence.