

FIERY TRIALS
-ENTER HERE-

**DO NOT BE SURPRISED
BY WHAT GOD TELLS
US TO EXPECT!**

TRUSTING GOD
**THE DOORWAY TO THE
AMAZING,
INCOMPARABLE,
MATCHLESS, UNEQUALED
BLESSING OF THE FIERY
TRIALS OF LIFE**



TRUST

OUTLINE: 1 PETER 4:12-19

1) **DO NOT BE SURPRISED:** Do not be surprised at what God tells us is necessary and what we should expect as those who live for the will of God, 4:12.

- (1 Peter 4:12 ESV) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.
- A) If we are living for the will of God, then we should expect fiery trials from the hand of God.
- B) Fiery trials are God's "finishing work"—his sanctifying work—by which he tempers the metal of our faith giving us the necessary strength and spiritual "toughness" for endurance.
- C) We are fully dependent on the LORD to know his ways and to be led in truth.

- (Psalm 25:4–5 ESV) Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

2) **INSTEAD REJOICE:** Instead of surprise we should rejoice at the strategic position and perspective for which the fiery trials prepare us, 4:13-14.

- (1 Peter 4:13 ESV) But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
 - A) Living for the will of God we find ourselves walking the paths of the Lord.
 - B) Walking the paths of the Lord we find ourselves in the presence of the Lord.
 - C) So then walking with the Lord and sharing his suffering, we are rewarded with a deep, intimate, abundant fellowship found only here.
- (Philippians 3:8–10 ESV) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found

in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

From this advantageous position on the path of God ... and because of the purifying, cleansing work of the fiery trials ... we see and experience Jesus Christ as never before ...

- i. We begin to experience the infinite value of knowing Christ.
- ii. We begin to understand the infinite value of being found in his righteousness and not our own.
- iii. We begin to understand the infinite power exercised in our behalf that we might find ourselves in this relationship with the Lord of lords and King of kings.

D) From this privileged, strategic position in our walk with the Lord ... our great joy becomes bringing Christ joy ... and praise and glory and honor.

- (1 Peter 1:7 ESV) So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

E) We now walk the paths of the Lord with the blessing of the Spirit of glory and of God resting upon us.

- (1 Peter 4:14 ESV) If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

3) **DON'T MESS IT UP WITH OUR STUFF:** Do not suffer for living for your own will as do meddlers and busybodies who are motivated by self-interest as they attempt to control the affairs of others, 4:15.

- (1 Peter 4:15 ESV) But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

"Busybody/meddler" from Strong's ... one who takes the supervision of affairs pertaining to others.

- A) The busybody attempts to steer the lives of others to do what they have decided to be God's will but in reality is their version of God's will.
- B) The sadness and irony of the busybody is that though often well-intended, instead of steering people to live for the will of God they turn them away from and against the will of God.
- 4) **NEVER ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL:** When we suffer for doing the will of God do not be ashamed but glorify God, 4:16.
- (1 Peter 4:16 ESV) Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
 - (Romans 1:16 ESV) **For I am not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 - (2 Timothy 1:8 ESV) Therefore **do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord**, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.
 - (Mark 8:38 ESV) **For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words** in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.
 - (2 Timothy 2:15 ESV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, **a worker who has no need to be ashamed**, rightly handling the word of truth.
 - (Hebrews 2:11–12 NLT) So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. **That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.** 12 For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people."
 - (Hebrews 11:16 ESV) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God**, for he has prepared for them a city.
- 5) **JUDGMENT IS COMING:** Understand that God begins the time of judgment/suffering with the "house of God"—the professing Church—to reveal

true faith in and obedience to the gospel of God, 4:17-18.

- (1 Peter 4:17–18 ESV) For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And "If the righteous is scarcely *[with difficulty]* saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"
- A) All who are of the household of God are not of the household of faith, cf. 1 John 2:19.
- (1 John 2:19–20 NIV) They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.
- B) God's instrument for judgment is suffering.
- C) God will use suffering to purge his Church—clear the threshing floor.
- (Matthew 3:12 ESV) His **winnowing fork** is in his hand, and **he will clear his threshing floor** and gather his wheat into the barn, but **the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.**
- A winnowing fork is ... a tool similar to a pitchfork that would be used to lift harvested wheat up into the air into the wind. The wind would then blow away the lighter chaff allowing the edible grains to fall to the threshing floor, a large flat surface (source Wikipedia).**
- (Psalm 1:4 ESV) The wicked are not so, but are like **chaff that the wind drives away.**
 - (Psalm 35:5 ESV) Let them be like **chaff before the wind**, with the angel of the Lord driving them away!
 - (Psalm 83:13 ESV) O my God, make them like whirling dust, **like chaff before the wind.**
 - (Jeremiah 13:24 ESV) I will scatter you **like chaff driven by the wind** from the desert.
- D) Those who obey the gospel of God through the difficulty of suffering will successfully endure the fiery trial test of faith and find themselves in the privileged, strategic position of increased fellowship and strong, affirmed faith in the ways of the Lord.

E) Those who do not obey the gospel of God—those whose unbelief is brought to light through suffering—will be exposed and face the judgment of unquenchable fire.

CONCLUSION: Do we trust God with our lives ... do we trust our souls to a faithful Creator through the fiery trials of life ... 1 Peter 4:19 ...

i. As Christ provides our example, we need to trust our souls to our faithful Creator and to no one or nothing else.

Christ is our ultimate example of trusting God.

- (1 Peter 4:19 ESV) Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.
- (1 Peter 2:23 ESV) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.
- (Matthew 27:43 ESV) He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, "I am the Son of God."
- (Psalm 22:7–8 ESV) All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

ii. We need to trust God and take him at his word as he directs us to and through the fiery trials of life.

- (Psalm 56:4 ESV) In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?
- (Psalm 119:41–42 ESV) Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your

salvation according to your promise; 42 then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word.

iii. We need to trust God in, with and through everything.

- (Psalm 9:9–10 ESV) The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. 10 And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.
- (Psalm 40:4 ESV) Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!
- (Psalm 84:11–12 ESV) For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!
- (Proverbs 3:5–7 ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- (Proverbs 29:25 ESV) The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.



**WE EACH NEED TO ASK OURSELVES THIS QUESTION:
AM I WILLING TO TRUST GOD WITH MY LIFE?**