

## Suffering in the Will of God

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- I. Not all suffering is \_\_\_\_\_, only suffering for doing good for Christ. (1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 2:19–20; 1 Peter 4:12–19)
- II. Generally, doing good for Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ suffering, though persecution still occurs in a fallen world. (1 Peter 3:13; 2 Timothy 3:12–13)
- III. Suffering is sometimes \_\_\_\_\_, so be sure to suffer for \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 Peter 3:14, 17)
- IV. Suffering for righteousness' sake creates opportunities to honor \_\_\_\_\_ from our hearts. (1 Peter 3:15a; John 14:15; 2 Samuel 24:24; Romans 12:1)
- V. Suffering for righteousness' sake creates opportunities for our \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus. (1 Peter 3:15b)
- VI. Suffering for righteousness' sake leads to the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 Peter 3:10a, 1 Peter 3:12a, 1 Peter 3:14; James 4:6; 2 Chronicles 16:9)
- VII. Doing \_\_\_\_\_ involves specific Christlike responses. (1 Peter 3:9–11)
  - a. Doing good involves being non-\_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 3:9a)
  - b. Doing good involves not \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 Peter 3:9b)
  - c. Doing good involves \_\_\_\_\_ those who curse us. (1 Peter 3:9c)
  - d. Doing good involves taming our tongues from speaking \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 3:10)
  - e. Doing good involves turning from \_\_\_\_\_ and pursuing \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 Peter 3:11a)
  - f. Doing good involves pursuing \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 3:11b; Romans 12:18–21).

VIII. In suffering we are helped by a good \_\_\_\_\_ that silences scoffers.  
(I Peter 3:16, 20–21; Ephesians 2:8–10)

IX. In suffering we are supported by God's \_\_\_\_\_ marked by unity, sympathy, love, tenderness, and humility. (I Peter 3:8; I Corinthians 2:14; II Corinthians 6:14; Philippians 2:6–8)

X. In suffering we follow the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ whose unjust suffering was ultimately vindicated by God. (I Peter 3:18–22; Genesis 6:5)

**Additional Notes:**



## Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

### Questions for Discussion & Reflection

#### I Peter 3:8-22

1. Our reflex is often retaliation, not blessing. Yet, Peter calls believers to replace retaliation with blessing. How does this call expose the difference between what comes naturally and what requires supernatural grace? (Romans 12:21)
2. Why do you think Scripture repeatedly affirms that suffering for Christ's sake is precious to God? (I Peter 3:17)
3. The sermon reminds us that suffering caused by stubbornness or sin is not commendable. How does this help us examine our own hardships more honestly? (Proverbs 13:15)
4. Peter asks, "Who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?" Why is this generally true in everyday life? (I Peter 3:13)
5. At the same time, Scripture promises that godly living will sometimes provoke opposition. How do these two truths help us maintain realistic expectations of the Christian life? (II Timothy 3:12)
6. Peter says, "Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed." Why is it better to suffer for righteousness than to avoid suffering at the cost of faithfulness? (I Peter 3:17)
7. Peter urges believers to honor Christ as Lord in their hearts during suffering. Why does hardship reveal what truly rules our hearts? (I Peter 3:15)
8. The sermon reminds us that true worship often costs something. How does suffering become a form of living sacrifice? (Romans 12:1) Where might God be inviting you to honor Christ more deeply through obedience that costs you something? (John 14:15)

9. Peter assumes that faithful suffering will eventually provoke questions. The text emphasizes readiness- being prepared to explain our hope. What helps you stay prepared to speak about Jesus naturally rather than defensively? (Colossians 4:6)
10. Peter promises that God's eyes are on the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers. Why is this reassurance especially important during suffering? (I Peter 3:12)
11. The sermon says holiness is not merely avoiding evil, but actively doing good. How does this expand your understanding of obedience? (I Peter 3:11)
12. Peter defines doing good as refusing retaliation, resisting bait, blessing enemies, and pursuing peace. Which of these feels most challenging? (I Peter 3:9) How might we encourage each other in these areas this week?
13. Peter connects a good conscience with confidence in witness. How does integrity strengthen boldness? (I Peter 3:16)
14. Peter calls believers to unity, sympathy, brotherly love, and humility. Why are these qualities essential when suffering intensifies? (I Peter 3:8)
15. Scripture highlights that Christ's suffering was ultimately vindicated by God. How does this promise give hope when justice seems delayed? (I Peter 3:22)
16. Which truth from this passage strengthens you most: God sees, God blesses, God uses suffering, or God vindicates faithfulness? Why? (I Peter 3:12-18)
17. What is one concrete way God may be inviting you to suffer faithfully for righteousness' sake this week? (I Peter 3:14)
18. How can this group pray for one another to stand firm, keep a good conscience, and honor Christ from the heart? (I Peter 3:15)