

**Message from God's Life Giving Word**  
March 24, 2019  
**explore God – Pain and Suffering**

Why does a “good” God allow pain and suffering?

Tested by Fire (1 Peter 1:3-12):

*...now for a little while, if necessary, you have been **grieved** by various trials, 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. 1 Peter 1:6b-7*

**Facing Suffering and Evil**

1. Imperative to \_\_\_\_\_

*But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel:  
“**Fear not**, for I have **redeemed** you; I have **called** you by name, you are mine. **When** you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; **when** you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame **shall not consume you**.  
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43:1-3*

2. Look to \_\_\_\_\_

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, to an **inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being **guarded through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5*

*For the **joy** set before Him, He endured a cross, disregarding its shame. Hebrews 12:2*

\* Central truth of Hebrews 12:2: The joy set before Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Steps**

1. Where have you experienced or are currently experiencing pain and suffering? How did/does it affect your relationship with God? Why? Journal about it.
2. Read Isaiah 43:1-3. There are several commands and phrases of hope in this text. Pray through these verses and tell God what it means to have this be His truth for you.
3. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. How does this text give you hope in the plan and purpose of your heavenly Father for you, no matter what you are going through? Which part of the text do you need to memorize to give you hope and peace as you go through your “various trials”?  
**REMEMBER:** *Your time in daily devotion and prayer is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others. Share what God is teaching you.*