

## How to Triumph During Trials

*Strangers and Aliens*

1 Peter 4:12-19

March 1, 2020

### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

*Context:*

Peter is writing to Christians who were forced to flee Rome because of heavy persecution. They were starting to feel the pressure of living in a culture that was hostile toward them. Thus, the apostle sought to comfort them. He wanted them to thrive and be a light for Christ.

He assured them that their trials were for the purpose of growing their faith and that a great inheritance awaited them in heaven. He called them to be holy and to love each other, while proclaiming the glory of Christ, and submitting to earthly authorities. He knew that if they focused on Jesus, they could live without fear.

Now he challenges them to live with determination and urgency in light of the Lord's imminent return. We are to do the same. The best way to do that, is to love each other with excellence. This sends a powerful message to the world, glorifies God and helps others find the love of Jesus before his imminent return.

### Key Scripture -

#### 1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> 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? <sup>18</sup> And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

## **DISCUSSION & APPLICATION**

- 1. Peter wanted his 1<sup>st</sup> Century readers to be aware that trials were coming. How does the expectation of trials help you thrive in them once they arrive? What can you do to prepare for trials?**
- 2. Rejoicing in trials seems strange. It almost seems that we are minimizing the pain if we find joy while something difficult is happening. But what does Peter mean by rejoicing in trials? Why can a Jesus-follower do this? What reaction would it draw from your friends if you displayed joy in suffering?**



**3. Not all suffering is the same. Sometimes we bring it on by foolish decisions or sin. But sometimes we suffer because of our faith. Can you think of a time when you took a stand for Jesus and it cost you something? How did that feel?**

**4. God is a safe place. We can experience triumph in trials when we totally give ourselves to him. Have you done that? What would it take for you to do that? Spend a few minutes in prayer and ask God if there are areas in your life that need to be relinquished so that you can triumph during trials.**

### **NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC**

March 8, 2020 - Conclusion of *Aliens and Strangers: Be Servant-Leaders and Expect Victory*  
1 Peter 5:1-14

