

## 1 Peter 4:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial that has come upon you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed at the revelation of His glory.

<sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Berean Study Bible

<sup>12</sup> You are loved!

Do not be surprised at the trial-by-fire that is taking place among you,  
as though something surprising were happening to you.

<sup>13</sup> But, as you share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice,  
so that in the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice, jumping with exuberance.

<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.

My own translation

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1

### Painting the picture. 1 Peter 4:12-14

The big picture includes me. 4:12

The picture painted by the Lord. 12a "You are loved"

The picture painted by the world. 12b "trial-by-fire"

The picture's foreground is Jesus and me. 4:13

Rejoice in suffering with Christ. 13a "share in the sufferings of Christ, rejoice"

Rejoice in glory with Christ. 13b "revelation of His glory, you may rejoice"

The picture's background is the world and me. 4:14

The world's worst gives me blessing. 14a "insulted... you are blessed"

The world's worst gives me glory. 14b "Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you"

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2

### Do you know what's happening? 1 Peter 4:12-14

There are three types of people. Those who make things happen. Those who watch things happen. And those who ask, 'what happened?'.

Surprises don't happen. 4:12

No surprise that I am loved. 12a "You are loved!"

No surprise that I am tested. 12b "trial-by-fire that is taking place"

Suffering does happen. 4:13

Share in Christ's sufferings. 13a "share in the sufferings of Christ"

Share in Christ's glories. 13b "the revelation of His glory"

The Spirit makes it happen. 4:14

The Spirit gives me blessings. 14a "you are blessed"

The Spirit gives me peace. 14b "rests upon you"

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3

### **You can change your outcomes. 1 Peter 4:12-14**

Different origins result in different outcomes. 4:12

Heavenly origin is love

Worldly origin is trial.

Different attitudes result in different outcomes. 4:13

Heavenly attitude is joy. 13a "rejoice"

Worldly attitude is hurt. 13a "sufferings"

Different intentions result in different outcomes. 4:14

Heavenly attitude is blessing. 14a "you are blessed"

Worldly attitude is insults. 14a "you are insulted"

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4

### **Don't just survive. Thrive! 1 Peter 4:12-14**

Understanding myself. 4:12a

God is love. 12a (1 John 4:8)

I am loved. 12a "You are loved!"

Understanding my world. 4:12b

Insults are normal in the world. 12b "trial-by-fire"

Insults are normal for the world. 12b "nothing surprising"

Understanding my direction. 4:13

Insults form my attitude. 13a "share... rejoice"

Insults form my outcome. 13b "exuberance"

Understanding my strength. 4:14

Insults are backhand blessings. 14a “If you are insulted... you are blessed”  
Insults are open-handed blessings. 14b “because the Spirit... rests upon you”

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5

### **Suffering might be good for my soul. 1 Peter 4:12-14**

Surprise is the wrong response to suffering. 4:12 “surprise”

The world has been broken because of sin.

The broken world inflicts brokenness.

Sharing is the right relationship in suffering. 4:13 “share”

Christ has gone through this broken world.

Christ helps me go through this broken world.

The Spirit is the right resource through suffering. 4:14 “Spirit”

The Spirit is better than this broken world.

The Spirit is beyond this broken world.

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6

### **Living through tough love. 1 Peter 4:12-14**

Tough love holds tight. 4:12a

God is love. 1 John 4:8

God loves. 12a “You are loved”

Tough love holds on in tough times. 4:12b

Occasional tough times are no surprise. 12b “not be surprised”

Infrequent tough times are the surprise. 12c nothing surprising

Tough love holds through tough times. 4:13

This time is not the only time. 13a “as you share... rejoice”

This time becomes beyond time. 13b “in the revelation”

Tough love holds on to bigger realities. 4:14

God’s Spirit settles my blessings. 14a “you are blessed”

God’s Spirit is settled in struggles. 14b “rests upon you”

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7

### **The normal Christian life. 1 Peter 4:12-19**

The normal Christian in the abnormal world. 4:12-14

In the abnormal world, sin is normal. 12 “do not be surprised at the fiery trial”

In the abnormal world, suffering is normal. 13-14 “share in the sufferings... insulted”

The normal Christian in the normal world. 4:15-16

In the normal world, justice is normal. 15 “suffer as a... wrongdoer”

In the normal world, injustice is normal. 16 “suffer as a Christian”

The normal Christian in the new-normal world. 4:17-19

In the new-normal world, discipline is normal. 17-18 “begins with the family of God”

In the new-normal world, self-discipline is normal. 19 “entrust... continue...”

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8

### **Hard-headed and true-hearted. 1 Peter 4:12-19**

My reality. 4:12

Have the right attitude. 12a “do not be surprised”

In the wrong aggression. 12b “something strange were happening to you”

My rejoicing. 4:13a

We will rejoice in the hard times. 13a “rejoice that you share in the sufferings”

We will rejoice throughout eternity. Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always”

My revelation. 4:13b

Christ will be revealed in glory. 13b “the revelation of His glory”

Christians will be revealed with Him. 1 John 3:2 “we shall be like Him”

My resolution. 4:19

Committed to God. 19 “entrust their souls to their faithful Creator”

Continue to do good. 19b “continue to do good”

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9

### **Being a believer in an unbelieving world. 1 Peter 4:12-19**

Believers build on Hope. 4:12-14

What to expect. 12 “fiery trial”

How to respond. 12-13 “not surprised... rejoice”

What to anticipate. 13b “overjoyed at the revelation of His glory”

How to progress. 14 “blessed, because the Spirit”

Believers build of Faith. 4:15-19

What to avoid. 15 “suffer as a... wrongdoer”

How to respond. 16 “not ashamed... glorify God”  
What to anticipate. 17-18 “judgment to begin”  
How to progress. 19 “entrust... continue to do good”

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### **Other possible titles**

Suffering is good for the soul.  
A different perspective on suffering.  
The good, the bad, and the ugly.  
Boot Camp for believers.  
It's not easy, but it's worth it.  
Suffering hurts in a heartless world.  
Blessings in disguise.  
What a strange way to say, 'I love you'.

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### **Cross references**

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

<sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons:

“My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
and do not lose heart when He rebukes you.

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one He loves,  
and He chastises every son He receives.”

<sup>7</sup> Endure suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup> If you do not experience discipline like everyone else, then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we have all had earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not much more submit to the Father of our spirits and live?

<sup>10</sup> Our fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields a harvest of righteousness and peace to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:4-11, BSB

5 So know in your heart that just as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. 6 Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him. Deuteronomy 8:5-6 BSB

12 Blessed is the man You discipline, O LORD, and teach from Your law, Psalm 94:12, BSB

74 May those who fear You see me and rejoice, for I have hoped in Your word. 75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. 76 May Your loving devotion comfort me, I pray, according to Your promise to Your servant. Psalm 119:74-76, BSB

11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD, and do not loathe His rebuke; 12 for the LORD disciplines the one He loves, as does a father the son in whom he delights. Proverbs 3:11-12, BSB

<sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. “We must endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they [Paul and Barnabas] said. Acts 14:22, BSB

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

<sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Romans 5:1-5, BSB

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not comparable to the glory that will be revealed in us...

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

<sup>30</sup> And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us.

Romans 8:18, 28-34, BSB

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. <sup>5</sup> For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

<sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which accomplishes in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we experience. <sup>7</sup> And our hope for you is sure, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you will share in our comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7, BSB

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal glory that is far beyond comparison. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, BSB

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11, BSB

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials <sup>7</sup> so that the proven character of your faith— more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire— may result in praise, glory, and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 1 Peter 1:6-8, BSB

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will suffer tribulation for ten days. Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10, BSB

19 Those I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore, be earnest and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:19-20, BSB

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## Commentary

God loves me (12a) but that does NOT mean bad things don't happen to me.

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## Music and songs

“You are loved!” v12a

Amazing love... You are my King. Ot 8

Because of the Lord's great love. V 16

Behold what manner of love. SiS 316

How deep the Father's love for us. TS 185

I looked for love. Ot 77

I stand amazed... My Saviour's love. CH 378

In love for Me (Communion). SiS 284  
Jesus Lover of my soul, 681  
Jesus loves me (acapella). Ot 46  
King of Love my Shepherd is. 86  
Love was when. FE 33  
My Lord what love is this... Amazing love. 160  
No greater love (Ralph Carmichael)  
Power of Your love, 621  
Replace it with Your love  
Shepherd of love, FE 30  
Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, 414  
You gave me love (B J Thomas)

“rejoice that you share in the sufferings of Christ” v13a  
Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful. Ot 42  
I lift up my head  
I will trust in You  
I’ll trust in Him  
In Heavenly armour... the battle belongs to the Lord.  
Reach out to Jesus  
Thank You Lord for the trials. Ot 53  
Tower of strength  
Where else have we to go

“the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you” v14b  
Glory Jesus glory, You do the fighting for me.

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### **Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion**

1. When you visit an art gallery, what style of pictures do you find most attractive?
  2. Look at v12. If God really loves us, why doesn’t He stop bad things from happening to us? When does love allow bad things to occur?
  3. In v13 the word “rejoice” is used twice. What are the two settings? Was it necessary for Christ to pass through the first to arrive at the second? Is it necessary for us to pass through the first, to arrive at the second?
  4. In v14 it says, “you are blessed”. List some advantages of blessings being person, rather than our circumstances being blessed.
  5. What is something you will commit to do this week into order to bless someone?
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