

“A Living Hope”

Week 7: Suffering According to God’s Will, Part 2

1 Peter 4:1-19

Main idea: Suffer well.

I. Understand the connection between suffering and _____ (vv. 1-6)

- a. In suffering we _____ ourselves with a new _____.
- b. In suffering we show that we’ve made a clear break with _____.
- c. In suffering we _____ a life driven by _____.
- d. In suffering we _____ ourselves _____.

II. Pray. (v. 7)

III. _____ each other fervently. (vv. 8-11)

- a. Why: Because love covers a multitude of sins
- b. How: *Hospitality* and *servicing* each other with spiritual gifts

IV. Expect suffering and keep on _____ . (vv. 12-18)

V. Meditate often on the _____ of God. (v. 19)

Time to “marinate”:

- 1) What truth(s) from today’s lesson stood out to you the most and why?
- 2) How has God used suffering to sanctify you (make you more like Jesus)?
- 3) Is hospitality easy or hard for you? Why?
- 4) How have you personally experienced the beautiful reality of that “love covers a multitude of sins?”
- 5) Jesus promised that His followers would suffer. The New Testament epistles are replete with exhortations regarding suffering. We follow in the steps of a Savior who suffered. Why, then, does suffering still come as such a surprise to us? In other words, why do we (for the most part) still assume the “normal” Christian life is relatively pain-free?
- 6) What happens to your mind and heart when you intentionally choose to focus on God’s character, particularly His faithfulness?