

Suffering for the Cause Pt. 1

1 Peter 4:12-19

Introduction:

Fiery Ordeal – is the intense persecution and suffering a true believer in Jesus Christ will endure for the sake of righteousness and these trials have a direct link to our reward in heaven.

This whole epistle has been about how the Church should respond to unjust suffering.

There are 4 key ways we are to respond to suffering for Christ:

- **We are to Expect it v.12**
- We are to Rejoice in it
- We are to Evaluate it
- We are to Commit ourselves to God

I. The Beloved of God v.12a

- a. Beloved is a pastoral word meaning
 - i. A word of tenderness
 - ii. A word of compassion
 - iii. A word of affection
 - iv. A word of care
- b. The Church is the beloved of God especially during the time of suffering

II. We are not to be Surprised by Suffering v.12b

- a. For a Christian, suffering shouldn't be foreign
- b. We are not to be surprised by it 1 Jhn 13:13
- c. True Christians will endure sufferings for righteousness sake (see list)

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III. God Allows Fiery Trials to Come v.12c

- a. He allows them to come for our testing
- b. It is how he proves who is real and who is not Matt 13:5-6
- c. Phonies don't stick around

IV. Our Fiery Trials are Not by Chance v.12d

- a. Our trials are not something that happens to us by chance
- b. They are God allowed and designed
- c. They prove who is real and purges the impurities from our life

Next Week we will cover the 2nd response:

- Rejoicing in suffering.