

***Face Suffering with Purpose: Part 2***

(1 Peter 4:1-6)

*Use suffering for your faith as incentive to curb sinful habits* (1 Pet 4:1-3)

* Prepare yourself mentally to suffer for your faith (v. 1a)

*Preparation Steps for Suffering*

Pray alone – Learn to be alone with God so that you can be alone with God when it hurts.

Know the Bible – Learn how to respond to questions challenging your faith before they actually happen and you are called to give an answer. Questions sceptics typically pose include the truthfulness of the Bible, the holiness and lovingkindness of God, the origin of evil, the narrowness of the gospel for salvation, and the reality of eternal judgment.

Tell yourself truth when emotions of doubt prevail – Learn to control your emotions of panic, fear, doubt, and anger by disciplining yourself with words of truth to counter lies that affect you.

* End sinful habits (vs. 1b-3)

“Following through with a decision to obey God even when it will mean physical suffering has a morally strengthening effect on our lives: it commits us more firmly than ever before to a pattern of action where obedience is even more important than our desire to avoid pain.”

**Wayne Grudem**

* Live by biblical principle and not by sinful passions
* Consider the consequences of living by sinful passions

*Recognize that following Christ contrasts an unbelieving world* (1 Pet 4:4-6)

* Be ready to be rejected by unbelievers if you reject their lifestyle (v. 4)
* Be assured that God will ultimately judge those who reject His gospel (vs. 5-6)

**Matthew 12:36-37**

36I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**Romans 14:10-12**

10Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
    and every tongue shall confess to God.”

12So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Hebrews 4:13**

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**Hebrews 9:27**

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

**Luke 16:26**

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’

*17-07-2022 CIC*