

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I PETER 4:12-19

Lesson 15

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I Peter 4:7-11. In what way have these verses increased your desire to live for what really matters until Christ's return?
2. Why are we surprised by trials? Even though trials are a reality of life, often they catch us off guard. I Peter 4:12-19 teaches us how to prepare for trials, how to walk through them and remain steadfast. We will also learn about the glorious benefits that come through trials. Read these verses and choose a phrase or verse that would encourage a Christian who is in a trial.
3. To receive the most from these beneficial verses begin your study with prayer. Ask the Lord to minister to you through your lesson and help you apply what you learn. Write your prayer here.

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous:
but the LORD delivereth him
out of them all.
Psalm 34:19*

SECOND DAY: Read I Peter 4:12,13

1. Peter introduced the subject of suffering with an extremely endearing term. Print it here from I Peter 4:12a.
 - a. What is revealed about God's love in Jeremiah 31:3?

 - b. Why is it important to know the Lord loves you, especially when you are in a trial?

2. Frequently our initial reaction to a trial is surprise or shock and we question "why?". How would Peter's exhortation in I Peter 4:12 answer this?
 - a. *Fiery trial* refers to the process of refining gold or silver. Although the *fiery trial which is to try you* deals primarily with persecution from unbelievers, this instruction is valuable for any trial. How would knowing God uses trials to refine us affect our ability to remain steadfast and faithful in times of suffering?

 - b. When experiencing a trial what attitude does I Peter 4:13a tell us we should have?
 - (1.) According to James 1:2-4 why can we *rejoice*?

3. Write the reason we are to *rejoice* from I Peter 4:13b.
 - a. Record the benefits of sharing in Christ's sufferings from the following verses:
 - (1.) I Peter 4:13c

 - (2.) Romans 8:17b

 - (3.) II Corinthians 4:17

 - (4.) Philippians 4:10

 - (5.) II Timothy 2:12a

4. What encouragement have you received from today's study that will help you *be glad also with exceeding joy*? I Peter 4:13c

*In every trial we have the opportunity to glorify Christ
and be purified so we reflect His likeness more and more.*
-selected


THIRD DAY: Read I Peter 4:14-16

1. In I Peter 4:14 we find an unexpected source of blessing for the Christian. Write verse 14a in your own words.
 - a. Why can a believer be *happy* (supremely blessed) if *reproached* (insulted or scorned) *for the name of Christ*? Answer by completing the following phrase from verse 14:

for the spirit _____ and of _____ upon you:
 - b. How does Matthew 5:10-12 support verse 14a?
 - c. Consider the contrast in the last phrase of verse 14. What do you see?

2. I Peter 4:15 gives believers a warning. Write it here.
 - a. *Busybody* means *meddler; self appointed overseer in other men's matters*. Notice *busybody* is listed with murderers, thieves and evildoers. Why is being a *busybody* such a terrible sin?

3. What instruction does I Peter 4:16 give to those who *suffer as a Christian*?
 - a. Both the Bible and Christian history records many examples of believers who glorified God through persecution and suffering. Share a brief testimony of one that especially blesses you today.

Jesus, we love You,
we worship and adore You.
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
-selected 

FOURTH DAY: Read I Peter 4:17,18

1. In I Peter 4:17,18 Peter contrasted believers with unbelievers. Write the statement or the question from each of these verses about:
 - a. believers

 - b. unbelievers

2. The *judgment* in I Peter 4:17a refers to the purifying discipline of God's children. Contrast the *judgment* of the believer with the *judgment* of unbelievers through the following chart:

<i>Believer's Judgment Now</i>	<i>Unbeliever's Judgment Eternally</i>
a. Hebrews 12:6,10b,11	II Thessalonians 1:8,9
b. Revelation 3:19	Romans 2:8,9

3. The word *scarcely* in I Peter 4:18 means *with difficulty*. This refers to the drastic means, namely persecution and suffering, which were allowed by God to purify the lives of His children. How would I Peter 1:6,7 encourage a persecuted believer?

4. Consider the following quote: *If the righteous need disciplinary judgments, how much more will the unrighteous merit the wrath of God Whose offer of righteousness they have rejected?* How does the reality of the unbeliever's judgment compel you to do everything you can to reach the lost?
 - a. Share ways you can do this.

*This life is all the believer will know of hell.
It is all the unbeliever will know of heaven.
Selah - pause and think about this.*

FIFTH DAY: Read I Peter 4:19

1. I Peter 4:19 is a scripture that every suffering Christian should know and apply. Print this verse here phrase by phrase.
 - a. Focus on the phrase *suffer according to the will of God*. How does this refute the teaching that a Christian should never have to suffer?

 - b. Explain how we might bring suffering on ourselves that is not according to God's will.

2. God wants to strengthen us, help us and carry us through when we *suffer according to the will of God*. What is our part? Answer from I Peter 4:19b.
 - a. Define the word *commit*. (Use synonyms, if you desire.)

 - b. Consider for a moment the description of God in verse 19. How would knowing that He is your *faithful Creator* help you apply the instruction in this verse?

3. *So, if you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God Who made you, for He will never fail you.* I Peter 4:19 TLB Give an example of what it would mean to *keep on doing what is right*.

*. . . for I know Whom I have believed,
and am persuaded that He is able to keep
that which I have committed unto Him against that day.
II Timothy 1:12b*

SIXTH DAY: Review I Peter 4:12-19

1. In response to your study of I Peter 4:12-19 this week complete the following sentences:
 - a. I have learned that *fiery trials* _____.
 - b. Persecution is allowed in the believer's life to _____.
 - c. I am enabled to rejoice in these trials because _____.

2. How would you answer a Christian who was questioning God's love for them because of a *fiery trial*?

3. What did you learn from this week's lesson that will help you to prepare for, walk through, and remain steadfast in trials?

4. Recall a few of the benefits of suffering and trials that cause you to *rejoice and be glad*.

5. In what way has your study this week:
 - a. challenged you

 - b. comforted you

 - c. changed you

*In the shelter of Your Presence, in the safety of Your arms,
I will make Your love my refuge, from all harm, from all harm.
I will cast my cares upon You, find Your peace in every storm,
in the shelter of Your presence, in the safety of Your arms.*

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