

# ARMING for UNJUST SUFFERING

1 Peter 4:1-6

Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 6:10-20

Author: Peter, an Apostle (1 Peter 1:1)

- To IGNORE, DISOBEY, BE IGNORANT OF Peter's teachings and commands is to reject Christ and to reject Christ is to God Himself. (Luke 10:16)

A Letter to Saints (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- ★ A letter written PILGRIMS.
- Christians are STRANGERS and PILGRIMS in this world!
  - STRANGERS: Our citizenship is NOT here, but heaven. (Philippians 3:20-21) Christians are to look, sound, and be strange to the people of the world. (1 John 3:1; John 15:18-19, 21; 16:1-3; 1 Peter 4:3-4)
  - PILGRIMS: Christians are only "passing through" on a journey to a better place - heaven. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
    - ★ (Psalm 43:3; 25:4-5; 119:105) Christians use the Word of God as their map and light to navigate their way. (Luke 4:4)
    - ★ Christians do not conform themselves to the world. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
    - ★ We are to pass through this wilderness in fear. (1 Peter 1:17; 2:17; 3:15) If we fear God, we will not fear anything else.
  - Disciples are in ENEMY territory. Our enemies are ALL around us -
    - ★ Our own lusts and desires! (1 Peter 2:11)
      - The Spirit and our flesh are constantly at battle with each other. (Romans 7:14-23; Gal5:16-22; 1 John 2:15-17)
      - THEREFORE, we cleanse OURSELVES (1 Cor 7:1), we daily (if not hourly) PRAY that God will continually FILL US with His Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
    - ★ The Devil, that roams the earth looking for saints to devour! (1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:1-11; Rev 12:9; 2 Cor 2:11; 11:14)
    - THEREFORE, disciples walk CIRCUMSPECTLY in the world. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
    - 
    - ★ The WORLD that is under the influence of the Devil. (1 John 5:19; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)



18 May 2025

- THEREFORE, disciples diligently GUARD their hearts (minds, emotions, and wills). (Proverbs 4:23) Disciples GUIDE their heart - no the other way around. (Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 23:19; 28:26; Jeremiah 17:9)
- Blessed is the man whose heart is set on pilgrimage. (Psalm 84:5)
- Pilgrims are constantly in battle with fleshly lusts that war against their souls. (1 Peter 2:11)
  - The disciple's WALK is a DIFFICULT one. BUT the difficult way leads to life. (Matthew 7:13-14)
- Disciples live by promises rather than circumstances. (Hebrews 11:13-16)
- ★ A letter written to the ELECT of God (1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:3-4; 2 Thess 2:13; Romans 8:28-30; Acts 13:48; 2 Timothy 1:9). THIS IS A GREAT HOPE OF A DISCIPLES! In the midst of troubles, tribulations, and persecutions the disciple KNOWS that he is one of God's special people. (Romans 8:28-39)



- ★ A letter written to SUFFERING SAINTS. (John 15:18-20; Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- ★ A letter to warn of GREATER persecution to come. (1 Peter 4:12)
- ★ A letter to those who have been SCATTERED.
- ★ A letter to US! (Romans 15:4)

## 13 Principles to Live by in a Hostile World (1 Peter 3:8-17)

### Christ Suffered (UNJUSTLY) to Bring Us to God (1 Peter 3:18)

- We are saved only by the LIFE and DEATH of Christ. (Romans 5:9-10)

### Arm Yourself (1 Peter 4:1-6)

- ★ Peter, again, points to disciple's RESPONSIBILITY!
  - We are WORK OUT our salvation. Consider Philippians 2:12-13.
- "since Christ suffered for us" – points again back to 1 Peter 3:18.
- KNOWING that we have been called to suffer unjustly (1 Peter 2:21) the Holy Spirit commands us to arm ourselves.
  - "arm" is opl i zw hoplizo {hop-lid'-zo} and literally means, "equip yourself with weapons".
  - The NT likens the Christian life as a battle or a fight. (See Eph 6:10-18; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:3-4; 4:7; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Cor 10:3-5)

- A soldier **MUST** be thoroughly familiar with his weapons.
- Our enemies: Satan, the World (which is under the influence of Satan - 1 John 5:19, our own flesh/lusts/desires.
- One must prepare himself for battle against EACH!

## Weapons to Fight the Good Fight (vv. 1-6)

- ① (v. 1) The Same Purpose (mind, thought, attitude) of Christ.
  - (John 4:34) Christ came to do the WORK "prepared beforehand that HE should walk." (Ephesians 2:10)
  - "has ceased from sin" – Christ left the "realm" of sin to go to where there is NO SIN.
    - Death should never frighten a believer because they know that those believers that have died have "ceased from sin."
  - The goal (purpose, passion, desire) of believers is NOT TO SIN (1 John 3:4-10; Romans 6:12-16).
  - We know that one day we will be FREE from the PRESENCE of SIN.
  - We must be DETERMINED to live life as the people we are NOT who we were!!! God has "blessed with every spiritual blessing. . . in Christ" (Eph 1:3) and "given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness . . ." (2 Peter 1:3-4)
- ② (v. 2) Commitment to DO the Will of God.
  - The disciple has totally surrendered his/her life to Christ. (Romans 10:9; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)
  - The disciple denies himself, picks up his cross daily (dies to self daily), and follows Christ. (Luke 9:23)
  - The disciple at rebirth begins a NEW LIFE as a NEW CREATURE to live for GOD and not for himself! (John 3:3-8; 2 Cor 5:17; 5:15)
  - Disciples know that only those who do the will of God go home to heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23; 1 John 2:15-17)
- ③ (vv. 3-5) Run a Different Race
  - In these verses Peter is telling believers to remember their past life and how fruitless it was and how it was a waste of time.
  - As the Christian life is likened to a battle, it is also likened to a race. (Acts 20:24; Heb 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:7; Philip 3:13-14)
  - (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) The Holy Spirit tells what believers do in THE RACE.
    - ✓ Disciples RUN – not walk, sit, stroll, etc.
    - ✓ Disciples RUN to WIN. They give it their ALL.
    - ✓ Disciples are temperate in ALL things.
    - ✓ Disciples RUN to obtain an imperishable crown. (2 Tim 4:8)
    - ✓ Disciples are DISCIPLINED.
    - ✓ Disciples RUN by the RULES! (2 Timothy 2:5)

- Believers no longer run with their “old crowd”! (1 Cor 15:33; Proverbs 13:20)
- Because they are NEW CREATURES their “lusts” or “desires” of the OLD CREATURE no longer appeal to them. Because they are no longer their “nature.”
- Unbelievers “speak evil” of believers because they are DIFFERENT. (Remember 2 Timothy 3:12)
- Unbelievers will have to give an account to Christ and suffer His vengeance. (Hebrews 4:13; 2 Thess 1:6-9; Rev 20:11-15)
- ④ (v. 6) The Hope of the Inheritance that Awaits Us
  - “those who are dead” – those believers that have already died.
  - While we are here on earth we will be judged by human standards, but . . .
  - BUT those who have died NOW “live according to God in the spirit.”
  - (1 Peter 1:3-4) GOD has begotten us to a LIVING HOPE . . . to an INHERITANCE . . . reserved for us in heaven.
- Remember the inheritance that is awaiting us that we studied in chapter 1:4 ---
  - ❶ A City Build by God (Hebrews 11:13-16)
  - ❷ A City with Many Mansions (John 14:1-3)
  - ❸ A Feast/Banquet (Luke 12:37; Revelation 19:7-9)
  - ❹ No More Pain, etc. (Revelation 21:3-5)
  - ❺ To Sit with Christ and Reign with Him (Revelation 3:21)
  - ❻ New Bodies! (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)
    - ★ EVERYONE who has this hope purifies himself just as He is pure! (1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1)
  - ❼ GOD! (Psalm 73:25-26)
- Believer glean for and eagerly await our home-coming! (Romans 8:23-25; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28)

## What Must We Learn & DO

- ❶ We live in this world but we are NOT of this world. Our KING (Lord) has command us how to live in this world. (John 15:19; 17:14-16; Philip 3:20)
- ❷ The Christian life is a BATTLE (FIGHT) and we must use the “weapons” that God (our Commander) has given us for the fight. (2 Tim 2:3-4)
- ❸ The Christian life is a RACE that needs to be RAN with the goal of WINNING the PRIZE. (2 Cor 9:24-27; Philippians 3:12-14)
- ❹ We must live the will of God. The only way to live the will of God is to be a STUDENT of God’s written Word. (Matthew 7:21; 12:50)
- ❺ We must “set our minds on things above”! (Colossians 3:1-3)