

**Don't Stop Believing**  
**The Joy Found In Suffering**  
**Pastor Steve**

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

*If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

*For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner." 1 Peter 4:12-18 NIV*

**Key Verse of the Day**

*So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19 NIV*

**Grab This!**

It's never easy to be an \_\_\_\_\_ Christian.

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." — Jesus, Luke 9:23 NIV*

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you... 1 Peter 4:12a NIV*

**Key Thought of the Day**

In the midst of suffering, Christians ought to trust in God's \_\_\_\_\_ as we seek to do good in his name.

*So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19 NIV*

**PS Version of The Key Verse of the Day**

*Those who suffer according to God's will should entrust themselves for safe keeping to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19*

**Trusting God's Faithfulness In Suffering**

1. Persecution is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12*

*You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. — Jesus, Matthew 10:22 NIV*

## Trusting God's Faithfulness In Suffering

2. Persecution provides an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_.

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12 NIV*

### Don't Miss This!

Only the \_\_\_\_\_, authentic Christian will be persecuted.

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith... may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV*

## Trusting God's Faithfulness In Suffering

3. Persecution is an opportunity to share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ... 1 Peter 4:12-13a NIV*

### Grab This!

Every time we suffer for Christ it is a \_\_\_\_\_ — not a punishment.

*I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death... Philipians 3:10 NIV*

## Trusting God's Faithfulness In Suffering

4. Persecution is an opportunity to share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

*But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:13-14, 16 NIV*

*All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Acts 6:15 NIV*

*Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:17-18 NIV*

### The Bottom Line

God desires to use every part of our lives, even suffering and persecution, for his purposes; so when we experience those trials, we should \_\_\_\_\_ that we are able to bring him \_\_\_\_\_.