



Faith in the Fire

1 Peter 4:12-19

Key Idea: The promise of Scripture is not escape from the fire, but God's presence in it.

Opening Question

Think about a difficult season in your life. Looking back, what helped you keep going through that time?

Digging Into the Word

1. Don't Be Surprised by the Fire

Peter tells believers not to be surprised by "fiery trials."

- Why do you think suffering often catches us off guard?
- What are some common misconceptions people have about following Jesus and hardship?
- How does Jesus' promise in John 16:33 help us understand suffering differently?

Key Thought: Trials are not evidence that God has abandoned us; they are part of living faithfully in a broken world.

2. Remember Whose Name You Carry

Peter says that if believers are insulted because of Christ, they are blessed because God's Spirit rests on them.

- What do you think it means to "carry the name of Christ" today?
- Have you ever felt pressure, criticism, or misunderstanding because of your faith?
- Why might God's presence become more noticeable during difficult seasons?

Key Thought: Our greatest blessing is not comfort, but belonging to Christ.

3. Suffer for the Right Reasons

Peter distinguishes between suffering for wrongdoing and suffering for faithfulness.

- Why is this distinction important?
- How can we tell the difference between consequences of our choices and hardship that comes from following Christ?
- What does it look like to respond with humility when we recognize our own mistakes?

Key Thought: Not all suffering is Christian suffering, but all suffering can become an opportunity to trust God.

4. Trust the Faithful Creator

Peter concludes by telling believers to commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue doing good.

- Why do you think Peter uses the title "faithful Creator" here?
- What are some ways people are tempted to stop doing good when life becomes difficult?
- What would it look like for you to continue trusting and obeying God in your current circumstances?

Key Thought: God's faithfulness gives us strength to keep loving, serving, and trusting even when life is hard.

Personal Application

This week, identify one challenge, burden, or trial you are facing.

- How can you intentionally trust God with it?
- What is one practical way you can "continue to do good" despite that difficulty?

Prayer Focus

Spend time praying for one another's trials and challenges. Ask God to strengthen your faith, remind you of His presence, and help you remain faithful in the fire.