

HOPE IN HARDSHIP

For the week of November 8, 2020

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

1 Peter 4:12-19

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

MESSAGE POINTS

Hope is Experienced in Hardship when it is...

1. Expected (12)
2. Embraced (15-16)
3. Endured (17-19)
4. Enjoyed (13-14)

THE GOAL

To grow in understanding of how to experience hope in the midst of whatever hardship you find yourself in.

GET GOING

- Do you like tests? Why or why not? How about tests of faith?
- What is usually your first response when hardship comes?
- Look at **verse 13**. What are some ways that you can rejoice as we share in Christ’s sufferings?
- How has your pain grown you in character and conduct? How can it help others grow?
- Look at **verse 19**. What does Peter mean by ‘suffer according to God’s will?’ How is that different from suffering due to consequences?

KEEP GROWING

Turn to 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

- What does this passage reveal about the purpose of suffering?
- How has the comfort you have received from God encouraged others?
- Read **Philippians 3:10**. How is your relationship with Jesus enhanced by the suffering and comfort that we share with Christ?
- Look at verse 6. What is 'patient endurance' and why is it important?

GET GROUNDED

- Where is your joy level right now?
- Who can you encourage in their hardship?
- Where are you causing suffering in your own life?
- Take a minute to discuss how you can hold one another accountable and encourage each other throughout the week.
- What type of suffering are you experiencing right now? Take some time to pray.

MEMORY VERSE

"If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer." **2 Corinthians 1:6**