

## Hopeful Thinking in Suffering

1 Peter 4:1-19

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NEIL TRAINER

February 24, 2019



### NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion\*



- **How can suffering make a person bitter, or make them better? Can you give an example from your own life?**
- **Read *1 Peter 4:1-19*. Based upon what Peter addresses in this chapter, what can you deduce about the situation of the first-century Christians to whom he writes?**
- **If we are to have the same attitude as Christ when it comes to suffering (4:1), how then did Jesus think about suffering? How does this compare with our normal ways of viewing suffering?**
- **How has Peter's readers' faith in Christ impacted their lifestyle and the way they're treated by those around them? What is their focus to be upon now? What response does your own faith and lifestyle illicit from those around you who do not know Christ?**
- **How can times of suffering affect the ways we relate to one another within the Church, for better or for worse? How would Peter's admonitions in 4:7-11 address this?**
- **What gifts and forms of God's grace does Peter mention in 4:7-11? How are they to be used? What form of grace or spiritual gift is God calling you to use? How will you do that?**
- **What false assumptions about suffering does Peter confront in 4:12-19? For what reasons can Christians rejoice in suffering? How might this shape your own thinking about your current circumstances?**

\*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.

- **Drawing on what you've heard God say through this text, what is one concrete way you can follow the command to "love each other deeply" (4:8) this week? How can your small group or others pray for you and support you in this?**

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