

# SUFFER WELL

**Text:** 1 Peter 4

**Big Question:** *How do we suffer in a way that honors Jesus?*

## I. SETTING THE CONTEXT “PREVIOUSLY ON 1 PETER”

### A. Audience & Background

- Written by the apostle Peter to early Christians living as outsiders in the Roman world.
- Main theme of the letter: **identity shapes lifestyle**, believers are called to live holy and set apart.

### B. Immediate Context (1 Peter 3)

- Suffering is not optional for Christians.
- Faithfulness often leads to hardship.
- The question Peter answers in chapter 4:

*How do believers suffer well?*

## II. SIX GUIDELINES FOR SUFFERING WELL (1 Peter 4)

### 1. ACCEPT REALITY

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:1-2

#### Key Idea

- Since Christ suffered, believers should expect suffering.
- Christians are called to adopt **Jesus’ mindset**, not avoid hardship.

#### Theological Emphasis

- Suffering reorders priorities.
- Sanctification moves beyond behavior control toward God’s will.

## Application

- Acceptance is the beginning of faithful endurance.
- A Christ-shaped perspective says:  
“Not my will, but Yours be done.”

## 2. REMAIN DIFFERENT

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:3-6

### Key Idea

- Former ways of life no longer define believers.
- Faithfulness may provoke confusion or hostility from others.

### Observations

- Peter lists patterns of old life (debauchery, idolatry, excess).
- Cultural pressure increases when believers change direction.

### Core Principle

- Your testimony follows a gospel pattern:
  - “I was... but God... and now...”

## Application

- Do not return to old patterns.
- Holiness often leads to misunderstanding or opposition.

## 3. GET READY

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:7

### Key Idea

- “The end of all things is near” refers to God’s renewal already begun in Jesus.
- Readiness involves alertness, clarity, and prayerfulness.

### Theological Insight

- Christians live in the overlap of present suffering and future renewal.

### Practical Focus

- Stay spiritually awake.
- Guard mental clarity.
- Prioritize prayer as connection with God.

## 4. SHIFT PERSPECTIVE

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:12-18

### Key Idea

- Trials are not strange interruptions, they are participation in Christ's sufferings.

### Major Themes

- Rejoicing in suffering reflects kingdom perspective.
- Persecution for faith is described as blessing.
- The name "Christian" once functioned as an insult, now worn with honor.

### Kingdom Lens

- Present hardship is temporary compared to future glory.

### Application

- Do not interpret life solely through earthly success or comfort.
- View suffering through the story of Jesus.

## 5. COMMIT TO THE CREATOR

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:19 (first half)

### Key Idea

- "Commit" means entrusting one's whole self to God.
- The language suggests deep confidence in a faithful Creator.

### Spiritual Implication

- Commitment is not casual agreement.
- It is wholehearted trust rooted in God's character.

### Invitation

- Full surrender leads to secure hope.

## 6. CONTINUE TO DO GOOD

**Text:** 1 Peter 4:8-11, 19

### Key Idea

- Faithfulness is ongoing, not paused during hardship.

### Examples of “Doing Good”

- Love deeply.
- Offer hospitality without complaining.
- Use spiritual gifts to serve.
- Speak carefully and truthfully.
- Serve in God’s strength for His glory.

### Important Clarification

- Peter says **continue** doing good, not start doing good.
- Suffering does not suspend Christian obedience.

## III. SUMMARY

1. Accept Reality
2. Remain Different
3. Get Ready
4. Shift Perspective
5. Commit to the Creator
6. Continue to Do Good

## IV. KEY MEMORY VERSE

**1 Peter 4:19**

“Those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

### Why It Matters

- This verse summarizes the entire chapter.
- It provides a framework for responding to hardship with faithfulness.