

## **Suffering, My Friend?**

**1 Peter 4:12-19**

### **The Weight of Grace, 14**

**Dr. Ted Wueste**

#### **Think of suffering as a friend. 4:12**

"do not be surprised at the fiery trial ... as though something strange were happening"

#### **Embracing joy springs from understanding our future. 4:13**

"rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings"

We embrace joy as we refuse to run from suffering ...

knowing that we will be rewarded for suffering faithfully.

"so that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed"

#### **Embracing joy springs from remembering that we are blessed... 4:14-19**

"if you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed"

... because we have the Spirit of God residing in us ...

"because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you"

...encouraging us not to move into self-protective behaviors,

"let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler"

...but to thank God ...

"let him glorify God in that name"

...not dwelling in shame.

"let him not be ashamed"

...knowing that we will be rewarded.

"it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God"

...trusting all of us to Him.

"entrust their souls to a faithful Creator"

## **Our Story**

What self-protective behaviors do you tend to trust in?

In what areas of your life do you need to trust in God's faithfulness? How can you begin to cultivate a thankful heart?

## **QUOTE**

"The world believes that the absence of suffering means glory, but a Christian's outlook is different ..." Warren Wiersbe