

1<sup>ST</sup> PETER

Peter returns now to the theme of this letter, which is "suffering." Five times in this next section, the precise word or a form of it is used.



**CHAPTER 4: 12-19**

**<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" <sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.**

How does this passage align with the prosperity gospel?

---

---

How is a Christ follower's attitude to be different from the world view when we suffer?

---

---

Do believers ever suffer as a consequence of their sin?

---

---

---

How are we to feel if insulted for following Christ?

---

---

---

What does Peter mean when he says it is hard to be saved?

---

---

How does one obey the gospel?

---

---

---

Is it really God's will for us to suffer?

---

---

---

*Points to Ponder*

*Why do you think we are so often surprised when we have difficulties in life?*

*How are some ways that you may have suffered as a Christian?*

*Do you think we praise God enough for the privilege of bearing the name of Christ?*

