

## **1 Peter 4:1-6** **Peter Prepares Believers to Suffer**

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### **Suffering Thus Far In 1 Peter**

2:19 For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

2:20b if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously...

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### **Suffering Thus Far In 1 Peter**

3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed.

3:17-18 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust...

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### Believers Should Resolve To Suffer

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same purpose**, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

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### Our Pagan Past Is Behind Us

1 Peter 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

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### Pagan Persecutors Will Answer To God

1 Peter 4:4-5 In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

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### The Hope of Resurrection

1 Peter 4:6 For this reason the gospel was also preached to those who are now dead, so that, although they might be judged **by** men in the fleshly realm, they might live **by** God in the spiritual realm. (HCSB)

**Kata** = denoting correspondence or conformity

1 Peter 4:6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh **like** men, they might live in the spirit **like** God. (RSV)

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### Application

1. Believers suffer and live for "the will of God" by being fully convinced of the promised resurrection and glory to come.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope **completely** on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:1b,2 arm yourselves also with the same purpose ...live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, **but for the will of God.**

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### 1. The Battle To Believe

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

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### Application

2. Believers are convinced of God's promises and therefore live for the will of God because of the evidence, not despite the evidence.

Acts 17:2-3 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to **suffer** and **rise again** from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

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### 2. Jesus Supplies Evidence To John

Luke 7:20-22 When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, 'Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?'... And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

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### 2. Perseverance by Being "Fully

Convinced"

Romans 4:20 **No distrust made him waver** concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 You, however, **continue** in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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### Application

3. The evidence for the resurrection is overwhelming:

- Motive: Why would so many Jews follow a crucified man?
- Corroborating evidence of gospel accounts: If all other historical facts prove to be true, why not the resurrection?
- The empty tomb: Even the greatest antagonists to the resurrection of Jesus affirm His tomb was empty!

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### 3. The Empty Tomb

- Justin Martyr 165 AD cites a letter circulated by Jews in Jerusalem that were antagonistic to Jesus.

“A godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb, where he was laid when unfastened from the cross, and now deceive men by asserting that he has risen from the dead and ascended to heaven.”

(Justin Martyr, *Dialogue With Trypho*, Chapter 108)

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### 3. Corroborating Evidence

“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome...”  
(Tacitus, *Annals*, 15.44).

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### 3. Why The Change In James?

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3-8 ... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to **James**, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

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