

# FIRST PETER

## PART 128

### “A MATTER OF TRUST”

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These are very interesting days in which we live. All around us there is confusion, opposition and rebellion. To say these days are “turbulent” or “volatile” would probably be an understatement. Professing believers are seeing these conditions and realize that conditions are getting more intense as time goes by. Simply put: we are living in very “treacherous” days.

In the middle of all of this, many false teachings have been established in the Church (that is the true Church). One of the most devastating has to be this: that the Christian life is to be fun, easy, prosperous and accepted by all. An extremely watered down version of “Easy Believism” (an eighties term) has been pushed in the Church and it is being embraced by many. As a result, Christians who are “distinct” from nonbelievers are becoming more rare. The Word of God is not revered when taught; and sinning, professing believers can feel very comfortable without ever being challenged or convicted.

In this atmosphere, a devastating lie is circulating in the Church. The lie is this: as a believer, you do not have to suffer. After all, if you have enough faith, negative things will not happen to you. To quote James 1:16, “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

# THE REALITY OF SUFFERING

## I PETER 4:19

- To suffer means = to experience **pain** caused by people, circumstances, possessions and mental stress.
- It can also mean = an affliction, a misfortune, a calamity or a **hardship**.
- This is the exact term used of **Christ's** suffering (I Peter 4:13).
- Jesus Christ is our **example** (I Peter 2:20-21).
- So we suffer in this life when we **choose** to do the Father's will at any cost.
- In other words, we suffer for doing righteous **acts**.
- We are called to **validate** the Holy Scriptures with our lives, and this includes suffering.
- Suffering is according to God's **will**, not our own.

## SUFFERING PROPERLY

- As we suffer, we are commanded to totally **rely** on God's care.
- This command implies we must **obey** to have victory in suffering.

- To obey this command, we must commit the **details** of our life to God for His safekeeping.
- The key ... Can we really **trust** God with our own lives?
- There are two major reasons we can trust God with our lives:
  - Our great God is trustworthy in **creation**.
  - As a perfect God, He always does what is **right**.
- No wonder, then, we are to continually entrust our **lives** to God.

## PROBLEMS OBEYING THIS COMMAND

- Many Christians do not comprehend true biblical **faith**.
- Some professing believers refuse to **walk** by faith.
- Many are “trusting” other things or people to **carry** them through life.
- Some are not able to trust God because of a **rebellious** attitude or unconfessed sin in their life.
- Some have a very distorted **view** of God and His ability.
- Some are angry with God, **blaming** Him for trials and suffering in their lives.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Do you, as a professing believer, really **trust** God?
2. Has suffering caused you to **turn** to God, or turn away from Him?
3. Who on earth can **watch** over your life better than our omnipotent God?