

Lesson Notes: 1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV based)

TITLE: Proper Conduct During Suffering

Think of and compile a list of normal ways we respond to suffering:

- introvert
- self-pity
- revenge or strike back
- draw attention to or talk only about our suffering
- consumed or preoccupied with our suffering
- anti-social or isolate
- self-focused
- needy
- unmotivated
- depressed
- pessimistic / gloomy / futile-istic
- "I'm the only one this is happening to"
- confused / distraught
- hopelessness
- abandoned by God
- life comes to a halt
- complain
- find some way to mentally escape
- "Why me?"
- not worth living / suicidal
- lose perspective
- desperation
- make bad decisions
- drift from God

READ: 1 Peter 4:7-11, with vv.1-2 for context

Look for aspects of proper godly conduct in the midst of suffering, one verse at a time, and then discuss each aspect.

IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, . . .

v.7

- - "clear minded" = Strong's #4993 "be disciplined; to be of sound mind, i.e. sane, (figuratively) moderate"; NAS - "sound judgment"; KJV - "sober".
- - "self-controlled" = Strong's #3525 "be sensible; to abstain from wine (keep sober), i.e. (figuratively) be discreet"; NAS - "sober (spirit)"; KJV - "watch"; AMP - "alert"; 'discreet' -

AHD “Marked by, exercising, or showing prudence and wise self-restraint in speech and behavior; circumspect.”

IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, . . .

- - remember there will come an end and accountability;
- - pray more effectively, more appropriately - with a sound mind and self-control.

v.8

- - “deeply” = Strong’s # 1618 “fervent; intent”; NAS and KJV - “fervent”; ‘fervent’ - AHD “Having or showing great emotion or zeal”; ‘intent’ - AHD “Having the mind and will focused on a specific purpose”.

IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, . . .

- - loving others fervently is the primary means of weathering the suffering;
- - look upon those who cause you suffering with deep love.

v.9

- - “offer hospitality” = Strong’s #5382 “be hospitable; fond of guests, i.e. hospitable”
- - “grumbling” -- NAS - “complaint”; KJV - “grudging”; repeated words of complaint, perhaps to stir up rebellion.

IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, . . .

- - as a result of fervent love, extend hospitality cheerfully, even if it inconveniences you or is extended to those who cause you suffering;
- - believers can gain encouragement through extending hospitality to endure our suffering.

v.10

- - “to serve others” (vv.10-11) = Strong’s #1247 “ministering; to be an attendant, i.e. wait upon (mentally or as a host, friend, or [figuratively] teacher)”.

IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, . . .

- - each of us believers should minister to (rather than avoid) those who are suffering;
- - believers should benefit and minister to others even if we are suffering;
- - by extending undeserved favor to others, believers are being good stewards of God’s grace;
- - God has already equipped believers in various gifts to minister in grace during suffering.

v.11

- - “as one speaking the very words” -- NAS - “utterances”; KJV - “speak as the oracles”.

- - “strength” = Strong’s #2479 “strength; forcefulness (literally or figuratively)”; *KJV* - “ability”.
- - “praised” = Strong’s #1392 “may be glorified; forcefulness (literally or figuratively)”; *NAS* and *KJV* - “glorified”.

IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING, . . .

- - believers are to speak the things of God in the midst of suffering from others - not condemnation, judging, ridiculing those who oppress us;
- - believers are to rely on God’s strength, even to serve those who oppress us, which brings praise to God;
- - believers are to always bring glory to God and Jesus - not to ourselves nor to our own endurance;
- - only God deserves the glory because He is the One who provides the strength and means to endure the suffering.

BIG IDEA: Believers are to maintain proper Christian conduct to and minister to each other in the midst of suffering.

IMPORTANT SUB-POINTS: What are some other important points God is making here in these verses?

APPLICATIONS: What applications can you think of for how we should respond to the concepts in these verses?

PERSONALIZED APPLICATIONS: From these verses, what do you think God wants you to learn, or know, or remember, or put into effect in your life? How are you going to do that?

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