

## DIVINE “HELP” FOR THE “HURTING”

TEXT: **1 Peter 4:12-13:**

***12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:***

***13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

### INTRODUCTION:

All Christians living a godly life will be TARGETED for reproach, persecution, and cruel treatment from the ungodly. Living in a SIN-SOAKED, DEVIL-DRIVEN society, we are actually living on enemy territory. Our citizenship is in Heaven, from whence we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall return and take us up to Heaven after changing our mortal and corruptible bodies into a glorified body.



***Philippians 3:20-21:***

***20 For our conversation is in Heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:***

***21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.***

Our lifestyle as Christians with the Spirit of God indwelling us, causes irritation and vexation in the hearts of sinners, causing them to MOCK and SCOFF us. The Holy Spirit knows this, and inspired the Apostle Peter to give the saints these words of comfort, consolation, and encouragement.

### 1. BELOVED

The opening verse of the main TEXT of this sermon begins with **BELOVED**, a timely, well-placed beginning word, preparatory to the message which is to follow. It expresses the close and intimate relationship which should be between a pastor and his congregation. We are fellow heirs in Christ's Kingdom. We share one another's hurts and are compassionate towards any who are HURTING inside.

**1 Peter 4:12: Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:**

## **2. THERE'S NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT FIERY TRIALS**

The apostle tells these saints that there isn't anything "STRANGE" in what they are enduring, that we should expect these **FIERY TRIALS**. For they will come, whether we anticipate them or not. Sinners will try to make our lives miserable with their persecutions, for God's way is a **DESPISED WAY** to the ungodly. The Lord Jesus said:



**Matthew 5:10-12:**

**<sup>10</sup> Blessed are they which are persecuted for Righteousness' sake: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**<sup>11</sup> Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.**

**<sup>12</sup> Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the Prophets which were before you.**

**Matthew 5:44: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**

## **3. THESE FIERY TRIALS ARE TESTS AND NOT TRAGEDIES.**

They help to refine us and purify us. They also purge out of the church the hypocrites and the counterfeit Christians, like as FIRE refines gold and silver.

**Job 23:10: But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

**Malachi 3:3: And He shall sit as a Refiner and Purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.**



## **4. FIERY TRIALS ALSO DISCOVER AND LOCATE THOSE WHO ARE WEAK IN THE FAITH.**

The Scriptures say in:



**Proverbs 24:10: If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.**

**Luke 18:1: And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**

## **5. WE SHARE IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS**

Did you realize, my persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, that in our sufferings we are **SHARING IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS???** Listen to our text:

**1 Peter 4:12:**

***12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:***

***13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

## **6. IF YE BE REPROACHED FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST, HAPPY ARE YE!!**

***1 Peter 4:14: If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of Glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified.***

## **7. MISUNDERSTANDING, SLANDER, RIDICULE, AND BEING TREATED AS SOCIAL OUTCASTS IS MUCH HARDER FOR MANY TO BEAR THAN EVEN PHYSICAL SUFFERINGS FROM BEING BEATEN.**

This is the PRICE we have to pay for our NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE. Some Christians will cowardly withhold their witnessing for Christ. and warning sinners to flee the wrath to come, to avoid PERSECUTION. The Lord Jesus says to them:

***Mark 8:35: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it.***

## **8. CHRISTIANS WILL HAVE AN INEVITABLE TRIUMPH IN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.**

We do not suffer needlessly, or without greatly benefiting in this life and — most of all — in the life which is to come.

## **9. THE JEWS AND THE HOLOCAUST**

Many of our dear Jewish people paid an awesome price for being JEWS during the German Gestapo and the HOLOCAUST. Like Haman who sought to hang Mordecai on a scaffold, he was hanged there himself; so the Germans have paid a dear price for allowing this.

***Esther 8:7: Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.***

#### 10. **A PRICE TO BE PAID**

THE PERSECUTORS will pay a much dearer price than the PERSECUTED in the long run.

***Mark 14:21: The Son of Man indeed goeth, as it is written of Him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.***

#### 11. **WE OWE A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO DIED AS MARTYRS FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.**

John the Baptist and Stephen are among the many who have been martyred. The Lord Jesus calls Antipas "My Faithful Martyr who was slain among you where satan dwelleth".

***Revelation 2:13: I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast My Name, and hast not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where satan dwelleth.***

#### 12. **EACH HAS A CROSS TO BARE**

Must JESUS bare the cross alone, and all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

#### 13. **WE CAN HAVE PEACE IN JESUS**

Jesus said:

***John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***

#### 14. **MUCH TRIBULATION**

The apostles said this to the early church:

***Acts 14:22: Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God.***

#### 15. **JESUS IS WITH THOSE WHO SUFFER**

Christ was with the three Hebrews— Shadrack, Mesheck, and Abednego — in the fiery furnace. (Their Jewish names are: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah)

***Daniel 1:7: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.***

God blessed, protected, and delivered these dear saints who remained true and trusting in the Lord, even in the face of death in its most torturous form.

Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center

[www.AkronShalomMinistries.org](http://www.AkronShalomMinistries.org)