

**Don't Let These Trials
Surprise You**

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are

blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the

outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, **as though something strange** were happening to you.

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a
godly life in Christ Jesus will be
persecuted

Matthew 8:31

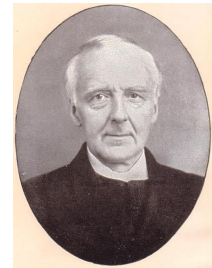
And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

v. 32

And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Once it seemed strange to the
Apostle Peter that his Master
should think of suffering. Now he
thinks it strange that He could
have imagined anything else.

- F. B. Meyer



Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery trial** when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Proverbs 27:21

The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.

Psalm 66:10

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

1 Peter 1:7

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire

This is an admonition to have a true and deep theology. If you know that God sometimes wills for his people to suffer and that if suffering befell the King, how much more his subjects; then when your fiery ordeal comes you will not be surprised. You will not raise your fist and say, "Where is God

now when a young missionary and father of two children is shot through the heart?" You may weep for the pain, you may be angry at the sin of the killers, but you will not be surprised.

– John Piper



But rejoice insofar as **you share Christ's sufferings**, that you may also rejoice and be **glad when his glory is revealed**.

Luke 24:26

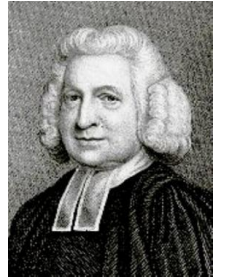
And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ **should suffer** these things **and enter into his glory?**”

Philippians 3:10

that I may **know him** and the
power of his resurrection, and
may **share his sufferings**,
becoming like him in his death

Come to me O blessed trial, I need
you. For you always draw me to the
arms of the Saviour.

– George Whitefield



If you are insulted for the name of
Christ, **you are blessed,**
because the Spirit of glory and
of God rests upon you.

Isaiah 11:1-2

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the **Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the

Spirit of counsel and might, the
Spirit of knowledge and the fear
of the LORD. And his delight shall
be in the fear of the LORD.

Acts 5:40-41

and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Believers who suffer are blessed because they are now enjoying God's favor, tasting even now the wonder of the glory to come and experiencing the promised Holy Spirit.

– Thomas Schreiner



But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone **suffers as a Christian**, let him not be ashamed, but let him **glorify God** in that name

For it is time for **judgment to begin**
at the household of God;

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple...But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? **For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.**

and if it begins with us, what will be
the **outcome for those who do
not obey the gospel of God?** And
“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly
and the sinner?”

Hebrews 10:31

It is a fearful thing to fall into the
hands of the living God.

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1 Peter 2:23

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

The apricot tree at 2828 Hill Heights Park was trimmed back so much I wondered if the branches and leaves would ever grow back, let alone the leaves. We ended up that next year having apricots coming out of our ears; Mom made apricot pie, jam, and we had it as fresh fruit, and there was still an abundance left for the birds.

– Charles Spurgeon

