

GOOD DIFFERENT – YOUR FIERY TRIAL

1 Peter 4:12-19 | February 21, 2021 | Pastor Mike Maslin

A **fiery trial** (verse 12) – Insults and persecutions against Christians and the suffering that goes with them (also see verse 3)

Peter gives us a biblical theology for the suffering of the fiery trial:

- ✓ Fiery trails are to be expected (verse 12).

- ✓ Fiery trials are painful (verse 12; also see verse 1).

- ✓ Fiery trials are purpose-filled (verses 13-16).

- ✓ Fiery trials are temporary (verses 17-18).

What to do when you suffer for being a Christian?

Entrust yourself to God and keep doing good (verse 19)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

Remember: There are different types of suffering. Peter is telling us about the suffering that comes from fiery trials – the results of being a Christian in a hostile world.

1. What is one thing in particular that stood out to you from the message or service?
2. How was the experience of Peter’s audience (1st century Gentile believers) similar to that of many Christians in America?
3. Why does God call such trials “fiery” and relate them to fire? How does this alter our perspective about them?
4. What are examples of fiery trials for Christians today? Make a list. Think of both the drastic, traumatic examples and also the commonplace, everyday examples.
5. Which of the four points in the biblical theology for fiery trials is most comforting to you? Why?
6. How can you begin more actively cultivating the “theology of the fiery trial” in your life now?
7. Read 1 Peter 4:1-4. Are you able to see a hostile pagan world as Peter does? Do you need to alter your perspective about the world?
8. In verse 19, entrusting your whole self (literally, “soul”) to God is a hard concept to practice. What area of your life is hardest to entrust to God?
9. Take some time to pray for those areas of life which must be entrusted to God.