

Session 11 – Conclusion

Suffering & Purpose

*Hope in Suffering:
Studies in First Peter*

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Notes

Outline of First Peter

1. Salutation (1:1-2)
2. God's Gracious Activity in the Lives of Suffering Believers (1:3-2:10)
 - a) Destined for Salvation (1:2-12)
 - b) Called to a New Way of Life (1:13-2:3)
 - c) Given High Spiritual Standing (2:4-10)
3. The Mission of Suffering Believers in the World (2:11-4:6)
 - a) The General Strategy (2:11-12)
 - b) The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)
 - i) Submit to Civil Authority (2:13-17)
 - ii) Submit to Masters (2:18-25)
 - iii) Submit to Husbands (Honor Wives) (3:1-7)
 - iv) Do Good to All (3:8-12)
 - c) The Promise of Vindication (3:13-4:6)
4. The Mission of Suffering Believers in the Church (4:7-5:11)
 - a) General Strategy: Knowledge and Love (4:7-8)
 - b) Specific Strategy (4:9-5:11)
 - i) Love: Serve one another using your gifts (4:9-11)
 - ii) Knowledge: Understand God's purpose in suffering (4:12-19)
 - iii) Love: Serve one another fulfilling your role (5:1-5)
 - iv) Knowledge: Understand Satan's purpose in suffering (5:6-9)
 - c) The Promise of Salvation (5:10-11)
5. Final Greeting (5:12-14)

After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

-- Acts 14:21-22 NASB

Big Idea: I and My Suffering have a _____

Purpose indicates a _____

- Behind every purpose is a mind, a _____. Peter understands God to be in absolute control of all my circumstances.
- **Summary:** The circumstances of my life are _____ by a God who is merciful and mighty, holy and righteous, patient and faithful, full of grace.

Purpose indicates a _____

- To have purpose is to have _____. There is nothing accidental about purpose. Purpose implies strategy, organization, progress.

- Peter works hard to unveil the bigger picture of God's plan. He wants to free us from spiritual _____ vision.

- **Summary:** My suffering is a _____ experience in the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

Purpose indicates a _____

- For something to have purpose, it must contribute in some way to an _____. Purpose is oriented forward to the future.

- For Peter, the goal is full salvation experienced at the _____ of Jesus Christ.

- **Summary:** My suffering in this present time is not worthy to be _____ with the glory that is to be revealed to me. (Rom. 8:18)

Purpose indicates a _____

- For something to have purpose, it must have a reason for being, an _____. Peter explains the purpose of suffering for believers in 3 ways:

- **Reason 1:** God is _____ me through "trial purifying faith" for salvation (1:5-7; 5:10-11)

- **Reason 2:** I am a participant in Jesus' life and _____ to the world (2:4-12; 20-25; 4:1-6)

- **Reason 3:** I am in _____ with the devil (4:17-22; 5:6-9)

- **Summary:** I am suffering because God is saving me, I am part of Jesus' life and mission to this world, and I am in conflict with the devil.

Purpose indicates _____

- To say that something has purpose is to place value on that thing. It speaks of _____, worth, honor.

- When Peter speaks of suffering, he doesn't just say the experience is valuable or worthwhile, he says that it indicates that _____ are valuable, and of worth.

- **Summary:** My suffering is not a proof of God's _____, but a sign of the _____, attention, and significance he has placed on my life.

Purpose indicates _____

- To say that something has purpose is to say that it has a _____ to play, a role, a job, responsibility.

- Peter not only emphasizes the role suffering plays but the part I play while suffering. We have a role, responsibility in suffering.

- **Summary:** Soberness and humility leading to _____ is the key to responding rightly to suffering.