

# SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN

## 1<sup>ST</sup> PETER 4

The book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is a textbook on “Suffering as a Christian – Suffering because you are living as a Christian.” This book references the word “suffering” or its derivatives 21 times.

Dale painted a word picture for you: **“God’s eye is on the clock and God’s hand is on the thermostat.** He will not allow you to suffering longer than necessary nor allow the heat to rise to a level that you cannot withstand.”

Today we will add to that picture: **God’s heart is attentive to your suffering and God’s ear is attuned to your prayers!** God has suffered to a far greater degree than we will and He knows we are suffering because we are His and He is ours.

(1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:12 quoted Psalm 34:15-16) Read Psalm 34:15-19

Three irrefutable truths to rely of as you are living through your current episode of suffering.

1. **God is in control! “you are protected by the power of God”** 1:5
2. **God loves you! “His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope”**  
1:3-7,9
3. **God promises you will get through it! “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls”** 1:9 5:9-10

Be assured that your Suffering is God’s Will for You. 4:1-2 4:19 2:15 3:17

Expect Suffering & Be Ready for it. 4:1 4:12 2:20b-21

Rejoice in your Suffering, You & God are the Better for it. 4:13-14 1:5-6

Endure your Suffering keeping it in perspective & Pray Through it. 4:7

Be assured the result of your Suffering brings Glory to God & Honor/Reward to you.  
4:16 1:7 3:14