

Understanding & Embracing Suffering

#1: God's Expectations about Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-13

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering (1 Pet 4:12-13)

Do not resent suffering, but rejoice in suffering.

A) God isn't just your daddy

B) The godliest people suffer the most

John 16:33; Acts 14:21-22; 1 Thess 3:2-3; Acts 9:15-16; Phil 1:29.

C) God expects us to be happy about suffering

Do you see the Good News here?

Can you tell God Philippians 3:10?

Discussion ?'s

- 1) Why are we tempted to resent suffering?
- 2) What is a purpose of God's children that is not a purpose of our children? How does this help us accept that God our Father allows us to suffer?
- 3) It was stated that, "Your attitude toward suffering is directly dependent on how great you think God is." What does this mean? Why is this so?
- 4) What are some teachings in "Prosperity Theology?" How does the Bible's theology of suffering differ?
- 5) What are the lessons in the fact that the godliest people in Scripture (including Christ) suffered the most?
- 6) God expects you to be happy about suffering. How do you feel about that? Can you tell God Philippians 3:10?