



1 Peter 4: The Spirit of Glory

When it comes to suffering and Holy Spirit in our lives, there is often an element of control at play. We try to put God in a bottle and use His power when we need it. Our suffering can be, and should be, used to glorify God.

This is the point the apostle Peter is trying to make in his letter:

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you

1 Peter 4: 12-14

No matter what you are facing—be it the loss of a job, sickness, persecution, or a family breakdown—when we release our need for control and let God in, Holy Spirit comes and gives what you need in the time you need it.

We can be reassured that Holy Spirit will be there. Jesus promised us He would be present in every aspect of our lives:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever

John 14:16

And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age

Matthew 28:20

The Spirit of God is the spirit of Truth. We can be reassured that when we suffer, Holy Spirit will rest upon us, and provide us the amount of strength we need in time of suffering. We have to trust that the Spirit of God will have the final word over our suffering:

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty”

Revelation 1:8

But let us be careful not to try to manipulate God or Holy Spirit. In the church today, we are prone to dwell on what God can *give us* more than focus on God *himself*. When we focus on what we can obtain from God, we fail to experience the peace of His presence in our lives—the peace Holy Spirit brings.

Remember, Holy Spirit is better than anything. No matter what we are living, we know we have a counsellor active in our lives, and that is all we need. We should learn to embrace His presence and live in it.

DISCUSSION

Pastor Donovan encouraged us to live a life full of Holy Spirit, so when suffering comes, we are prepared and ready to face it:

- First, do you recall a moment in your life when you were suffering, and the Holy Spirit comforted you? What did you learn from it?
- What does it look like for you to suffer well?
- What does it mean to have Holy Spirit to rest upon you?
- How do we prepare our heart for suffering the way Peter intended?

POSTURING

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” James 5:16

Confession: (admit, acknowledge, reveal, make known)

- In light of our conversation, is there anything that the Lord is asking you to confess and be made known?

“Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!”

Ps 106:1

Thanksgiving: (a prayer expressing gratitude)

- Thank Him for all that He has promised and for His faithfulness upon your life.

EMPOWER

“God will strengthen you with His own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient. And you will joyfully give thanks to the Father who has made you able to have a share in all that He has prepared for His people in the kingdom of light.”

Colossians 1:11,12

- Pray for each other for strength, strategy, wisdom etc.
- Listen in prayer for words of encouragement and edification.
- Spur each other on!