



BIBLE-BASED
FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

MIDWK LOCKED-IN

Remaining Focused under Pressure
A Study of 1 and 2 Peter.

Week Eight
Refined by Fire
1 Peter 4:12-19

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The Fire Alarm

Think about what happens when a fire alarm suddenly goes off in a building. Everybody hears the same alarm, but everybody doesn't respond the same way. Some people immediately move toward the exit. Some stop to see what everybody else is doing. Others assume it's a false alarm and keep doing what they were doing. They don't take it seriously until they see the smoke.

Same alarm. Same building. Same potential fire threat but different responses that may yield completely different outcomes. There are many reasons for the varied responses, but the fact remains that the alarm is there to protect against a very real threat and depending on your response, you assume a high risk.

There is a very real threat in our world today and that threat is not just the next world war, but it is Christ imminent return and judgment. Knowing this Peter triggers the fire alarm. However, believers experiencing suffering are already feeling the heat, not from a literal fire, but from fiery trials.

Peter puts into context the suffering they are experiencing. It is an admonishment to the church today to view suffering through a biblical lens. The fire Peter references comes as a test to refine the believer, not to destroy. It will ultimately reveal who we belong to and what God has placed inside of us.

Peter says let us know, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God..." (v. 17). That leads us to our question for thought tonight. In light of the alarm that Peter sounds, what does my response look like? What is the fire revealing in my life?

Study Objectives

1. Identify the fiery trials in my faith journey to evaluate my response.
2. Represent Christ faithfully when faced with rejection, criticism, or insult because of Jesus' name.
3. Remain faithful in doing what is right while persevering through trial.

1 Peter 4:12-19 ESV

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's _____, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you _____ as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone _____ as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who _____ according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Table Talk

Peter realizes his readers are facing very difficult times and admonishes the believers *not* to do three things. Discuss these three among yourselves and the exhortation he gives *to do* instead for each. Answer the questions below considering the times in which we live today.

- Do not be surprised at the fiery trial (v.12)
- Do not suffer as an evildoer (v.15).
- Do not be ashamed to suffer as a Christian (v.16).

1. Peter says not to be surprised by fiery trials (v. 12). Why do so many believers still feel surprised, or even betrayed, when hard times come?
2. How does it change your view of a hard season to see it as God refining you rather than punishing you?
3. Verse 15 separates suffering for doing right from suffering for our own choices. Where is it hard to tell the difference in your own life?
4. If God is this serious about purifying His own house, how should that shape the way we pray for and talk to people who do not know Christ?
5. Verse 19 says to entrust your soul to God “while doing good.” What is the “doing good” you need to keep doing this week, even under pressure?

Summary

In closing, Peter reminds us that the fire itself is not intended to destroy us but to refine us. Review again the three things that Peter tells us to avoid when encountering the fiery trial and write them inside the “do not” circle. Then remember the three things to do instead and write each on the sticky note. Which one challenges you the most and pray concerning that this week.

Three things to avoid:



REFINED BY FIRE

How Do You Respond?

1 PETER 4:12-19

WORLDLY RESPONSE

IN THE FIRE UNPREPARED
Trials reveal what they trust in.
(v. 18)

FOR HIS NAME REJECTED
They oppose and mock the Gospel.
(v. 14)

BEFORE THE JUDGE
They will give account for their rejection of the Gospel.
(v. 17)

GODLY RESPONSE

IN THE FIRE DON'T BE SURPRISED
Trials are part of the Christian life.
(vv. 12-13)

DON'T SUFFER AS THE EVILDOER
You are blessed when insulted for the name of Christ.
(vv. 14-15)

DON'T BE ASHAMED
Suffer for Christ, and bring glory to his name.
(vv. 16-17)

Bible Memory Verse

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

Notes:





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GIVE



NEW HERE?



If tonight was your first MDWK with us, thank you for being here. We don't take lightly that you chose to spend your Wednesday with us. We pray you felt welcomed, encouraged, and strengthened. We'd love to see you again soon, you're always welcome at The Base!