

“SUFFERING FOR OUR FAITH”

“Keeping the Faith When Times Get Tough,” part 9

A sermon outline based on 1 Peter 4:12-19

Hillcrest CRC, June 21, 2020, 9:30am

Rev. Curt Walters

1. Expect **hard** times. (1 Peter 4:12, John 15:18-19, 2 Timothy 3:12)

2. Sometimes God tests and **refines** us.
(1 Peter 4:12, Psalm 66:10, Zechariah 13:9, Malachi 3:1-4)

3. How do we **participate** in the sufferings of Christ? (1 Peter 4:13-16, Acts 5:41)

4. We're **blessed** if we're insulted because of our faith.
(1 Peter 4:14-16, Isaiah 11:1-3, Matthew 5:11)

5. Judgment begins with the **family** of God. (1 Peter 2:9, 4:17, Malachi 3:1-4)

6. What should we do if we suffer for Christ?
 - Commit ourselves to our **faithful** Creator. (1 Peter 4:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

 - Keep on doing **good**. (1 Peter 4:19, Acts 16:16-39)

Next steps...

- As you reflect on your life, how has God tested and refined your faith? Share an example or two with your family members and/or friends. How did it affect your faith?
- Pray that God will help you to stand strong when you face fiery trials and that they will deepen your faith and trust in Him.
- Memorize 1 Peter 4:19 and recite it to yourself when you find yourself facing difficult circumstances. *“So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.” (1 Peter 4:19, NIV84)*