

INSIGHTS ON 1 PETER: HOPE AGAIN: WHEN LIFE HURTS AND DREAMS FADE

HOPE BEYOND OUR TRIALS: "WHEN THROUGH FIERY TRIALS . . ."

1 PETER 4:12-19



The Heart of the Matter

One of our greatest old hymns, "How Firm a Foundation," includes a verse that begins, "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, / My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply." The line finds its origin in this passage from Peter. Beautiful lyrics, yet much more than that . . . true words that are frequently forgotten when the blast furnace of suffering becomes our lot. Peter's instruction came from a broad base of understanding. Not only was he personally experienced in the crucible, he lived in an era when Christians paid a price for their faith. This, therefore, is no theoretical treatise based on pious platitudes but very real truth designed to help believers get through the fire of affliction.



Discovering the Way

1. Practical Truth about Trials

It's important to understand four key truths about trials. First, trials are common in the lives of Christians. Second, trials come in various categories. Third, trials put our faith to the test. And fourth, without trials, there would be no maturity.

2. Biblical Strength for Fiery Ordeals (1 Peter 4:12-19)

Christians' reactions to trials should include rejoicing. And in the midst of that rejoicing, we should remember that trials provide opportunity to draw on maximum power, that sometimes our suffering is deserved and shameful, that most suffering should not cause us to feel shame, that suffering is usually timely and necessary, and finally, that there is no comparison between what we are suffering now and what the unrighteous will suffer later.



Starting Your Journey

In the midst of trials, God is faithful. You can rely on Him. When trials linger for a time, take refuge in Him.

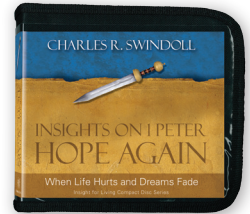


INSIGHT FOR LIVING

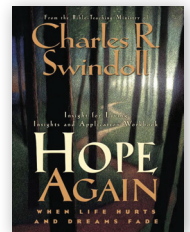
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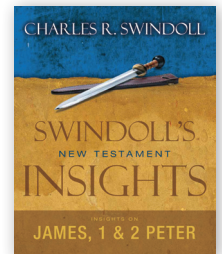
Tools for Digging Deeper



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