## 1 Peter 4:12-19 | The Purpose of Christian Suffering

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<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

## **QUESTIONS**

1.	Why	do v	/OU	think	that	we so	often	are	surn	rised	when	suffe	ring	hanne	n in	our	lives	?
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2. Read 1 Peter 4:13. Peter encourages us to rejoice in suffering.
What are the reasons given for rejoicing?
Share how these reasons made it possible for you (or someone you know) to rejoice in suffering?

Read 1 Peter 4:14-15.
 Is all suffering the same? List out the categories of suffering we might go through.

4.	Read 1 Peter 4:19.  Share about one experience in your life where you've seen God's blessing and faithfulness through suffering.  What do you think God wanted you to learn?
5.	What two insights stood out for you from this passage?