



Refiner's Fire | Week 7 Bill Bush | 07.18.2021

Big Idea

Suffering for good is an *OPPORTUNITY* not *OPPRESSION*.

Three kinds of suffering:

1. *COMMON*
2. *CARNAL*
3. *CHRISTIAN*

"There's a reason the symbol of Christianity is a cross, not a La-Z-Boy. Carry your cross!" - Theologian Pastor Mark Collins

Suffering is an *OPPORTUNITY* to experience the *power* and *peace* of God.

1 Peter 3:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?

¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.

Isaiah 8:12-14 (NLT)

¹² "Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them.

¹³ Make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear.

He is the one who should make you tremble.

¹⁴ He will keep you safe.

But to Israel and Judah

he will be a stone that makes people stumble,
a rock that makes them fall.

And for the people of Jerusalem

he will be a trap and a snare.

Suffering is an *OPPORTUNITY* to *express* my faith to others.

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)

¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

Choose to have an optimistic outlook based on *powerful promises!*

Fight *FROM* victory, not *FOR* victory!

1 Peter 3:17-22 (NLT)

¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

¹⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison—

²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

Do you want to *drown* in oppression or *float* in opportunity?

Luke 9:51 (NLT)

⁵¹ As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NLT)

¹⁰ In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. ¹¹ All power to him forever! Amen.

What is *your* JERUSALEM?