



Grow Strong
Pastor Tom Shirk
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Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.
1 Peter 4:12-13

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
James 1:2-4

We exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
Romans 5:2b-5

Suffering is a test to be embraced with joy because of what it produces:

➤ Endurance

➤ Holiness

➤ Hope

For your LIFEGROUP:

1. How does suffering change your perspective?
2. Can you experience joy in suffering? (Why, or why not?)
3. In 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, what did Paul say was God's purpose for allowing his affliction? (Have you ever experienced that same outcome through suffering?)
4. Read 1 Peter 1:6-8. What's more precious than gold? What is the outcome of tested faith?
5. Study Hebrews 12:3-11 this week. From verse 10, how committed is God to your holiness? Can suffering be a form of discipline?