

1. When was the last time you experienced an unwelcomed surprise? How might the situation have been different if you had been prepared for the experience?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12. How does Peter encourage his listeners to prepare for the fiery trials that are sure to come?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:13. Instead of being surprised, how does Peter encourage us to think about suffering. Why is this important?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:14. What are the blessings of suffering for Christ here? How do suffering and the blessings coincide? What does it mean that the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon the suffering Christian? How does this relate to Isaiah 11:2?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:15. What kind of suffering does Peter warn against? Why are Christians vulnerable to this? Why does Peter warn against it?
6. Read 1 Peter 4:16. What contrast does Peter present here? How does one glorify God as a suffering Christian?
7. Read 1 Peter 4:17-18. How does Peter distinguish between judgment for believers and for unbelievers? Why is judgment for believers not something to fear?
8. Read 1 Peter 4:19. What rationale does Peter offer for entrusting our souls to God, even in suffering?
9. Ask God for the strength and courage to do what he asks and to avoid what he warns you about, even in suffering. And thank him that his Son has already suffered for you.