

Suffering with a Side of Temptation Response Guide

1 Peter 5:6-14

Bethany Assembly of God

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- What's your favorite side to order when you go out to eat?
- Have you ever experienced insult, rejection, or any other persecution for following Jesus?
- What kinds of temptations accompanied that suffering?
- Imagine that you lived in a place where there was more systematic persecution of Christians. What do you think the temptations would be in that situation?
- Read **1 Peter 5:6-14**. What things does Peter say can help us overcome the temptations that accompany the suffering for Jesus?

Big Idea: You can overcome the temptations that accompany suffering.

1. You must be humble. vv. 6-7

- What are the temptations that often accompany suffering and which call for humility?
- What is the difference between a test and a temptation?
- What is God's intention for you in a test and why does know that intention call for humility?
- What is the specific means of humbling yourself that Peter tells us we can take advantage of?
- What are some practical ways of "casting" your cares on God? How can you put this into practice?
- Is it surprising to read that God cares for you? Why or why not?

"When you suffer for your faith, your first instinct may be to pull away from God either to protect yourself or because you doubt His care. But when you do that, you flee from the only one who can bear your anxieties, who has already carried them. Remember, you didn't suffer for God first. Jesus suffered for you first. He proved He cares with the cross. He also proved that He can handle your anxieties. So, rather than running from God, throw the burden of your fears on Him; He cares for you."

2. You must stay awake. v. 8

- Peter uses two word pictures for being alert: sober-mindedness and staying awake. How do those two pictures speak to your life?
- Have you ever been outside at night and heard a noise and you didn't know what it was? What was your reaction? Were you wide awake and alert after that?
- Why is it important for us to be alert concerning the work of the enemy?
- Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. How do these verses relate to staying alert?
- In what ways is God calling you to sober up or to wake up?

3. You must remain firm. vv. 9-11

- Tell about a time when you faced a challenge and you weren't sure you could do it? Have you ever faced something like that in your faith?
- Read Luke 10:18, Matthew 4:11, James 4:7, 1 John 4:4, and Romans 8:31. How do these verses encourage you to remain firm?
- What lies does the devil tell us about suffering in an attempt to weaken our faith?

“You can't continue.” “This is going to last forever.” “You're alone in this.”

- Have you ever heard (thought, felt) any of these lies? How can 1 Peter 5:9-11 help you remain firm?

4. You must stick together. vv. 12-14

- Why is sticking together so important for Christians?
- How can community help you overcome the temptations that accompany suffering?
- What are your primary sources of Christian community? Do you believe you have a strong enough support, or does it need to be built up?
- Rather than listing excuses about why community is difficult right now, how can you creatively express genuine love to other believers and help build community for yourself and for them?

Conclusion

Christians will suffer and that suffering is always served with a side of temptation. But God is gracious and cares for us. He has given us everything we need to overcome the temptations that accompany suffering. If we will be humble, stay awake, remain firm, and stick together, we will

overcome, not just individual temptations, but we will endure to the day when God's eternal glory is revealed and Jesus returns, the day when we will no longer be outsiders in this world, but insiders in God's eternal Kingdom. May peace be with us until that day!

- Pray for one another (if you're in a Connect Group) or pray with your family or a friend (if you're responding on your own) and ask God to help them overcome the temptations that accompany suffering for Jesus.