

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Do you believe the kind of suffering Christians experienced in Pakistan or China or N. Korea will ever occur here? If so, how soon?

2) Why do you think so many in the world hate Christians even though they do them good and not harm?

3) How would you explain the joy that comes to the believer who shares in the suffering of Christ?

4) Have you experienced the help of the Holy Spirit during a time of trial or suffering? How did He help you?

5) What is the biggest "why" question you would like God to answer and how do you think He would answer it?

Holy Suffering II 1 Peter 4:12-19

Intro: Altaf's story. 215 million Christians cannot live out their faith openly for fear of loss of job, home, life and family.

American Christians are facing pressure, not persecution, but it is likely coming and Peter has some important words to say about it.

I. Don't be surprised at suffering v.12

II. Rejoice in suffering v.13-14

III. Examine the reasons for suffering v.15-19

- Are you suffering for wrongdoing or as a Christian? V.15-16
- Is your perspective right? V.17-18
- Are you trusting Him when He doesn't make sense? V.19