

HARD KNOCK LIFE
1 PETER 4:12-19 / 11-13-19 / WED

I. FIRST, THERE IS A REASON FOR HARD KNOCKS.

- A. The reason is not that God has it in for us.
 - 1. To prove this Peter reminds his readers what God thinks about them.
 - 2. We are “dear friends” 4:12a. **“Dear friends”**.
 - 3. “Dear Friends” translates a Greek word meaning **“those who are greatly loved”**.
 - 4. Don’t allow your circumstances to color the way you think God feels about you.
 - 5. Look at the cross instead of circumstances if you want a clear picture of how much God loves you.
- B. Don’t be surprised, however, that despite God’s love you will still suffer.
 - 1. Peter says this twice in verse 12 to emphasize this point. —4:12.
 - 2. His point is that Christians should expect hardship.
 - 3. Jesus tells us as much—John 15:18-21.
- C. Peter mentions one purpose for hardship in verse 12—**“the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you”**
 - 1. Hardship tests the genuineness of our faith.
 - 2. Peter has already said this in 1:7.

II. SECOND, THERE IS A REWARD FOR HARDSHIP.

- A. Hard times give us reason to rejoice—4:13a.

1 Peter 4:13
But rejoice...

- B. How can we rejoice when we’re suffering?
 - 1. First, by receiving future glory with Christ—4:13b and Romans 8:18.
 - 2. Second, by receiving present strength from the Holy Spirit—4:14.

III. THIRD, THERE IS A NEED FOR REFLECTION.

- A. There is a need for personal reflection.
 - 1. If your suffering is self-inflicted you have no reason to complain—4:15.
 - 2. If our suffering is related to our stand for Christ, then we should thank God for the opportunity—4:16.
- B. There are consequences for not remaining faithful to God during hard times.
 - 1. First, there are consequences for Christians who do not remain faithful—4:17a.

1 Peter 4:17a

For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household....

- 2. Second, there are also consequences for non-Christians—4:17b and 1 Peter 4:18

IV. FOURTH, THERE IS A NEED TO REMEMBER THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.

- A. We must commit ourselves to God during times of hardship—4:19a.
 - 1 Peter 4:19a**
So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator...
- B. We must also continue to do good despite our suffering. Suffering doesn't exempt us from doing what's right—4:19b.
 - 1 Peter 4:19b**
So then...continue to do good.
- C. We do both, commit ourselves to God and continue to do what's right because God is powerful enough to be trusted—19— **"Faithful Creator"**