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The Outsider's Difficulty
I Peter 4:12-5:11

I Peter 1:1 *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen...*

How do you relate to God when you go through difficulties?

I. _____ by suffering.

I Peter 4:12-14 *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; ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

3 Bible Truths about Suffering:

- A. It is _____
- B. _____ suffered.
- C. Those who suffer for good are _____.

II. Answer to Suffering: Join a _____

I Peter 5:1-7 *Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

Instructions for Handling Suffering

- A. Spiritually Mature-- _____.
- B. Young Christians-- _____.
- C. All Christians-- _____.

 - Humble yourselves before God
 - Cast your cares upon God, because He cares for you.
 - Be sober is spirit.
 - Resist the devil.

III. The Good News about Suffering

I Peter 5:10-11 *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. ¹¹ To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Point:

Field Notes: Reflections From Outside

1. How do you relate to God when you go through difficulty in life?
2. Does suffering cause you to cling closer to God or turn away from God? Where is Jesus when you are going through a hard time?
3. Where have you found a caring Christian community?
4. How do you relate to that community? How could you?

