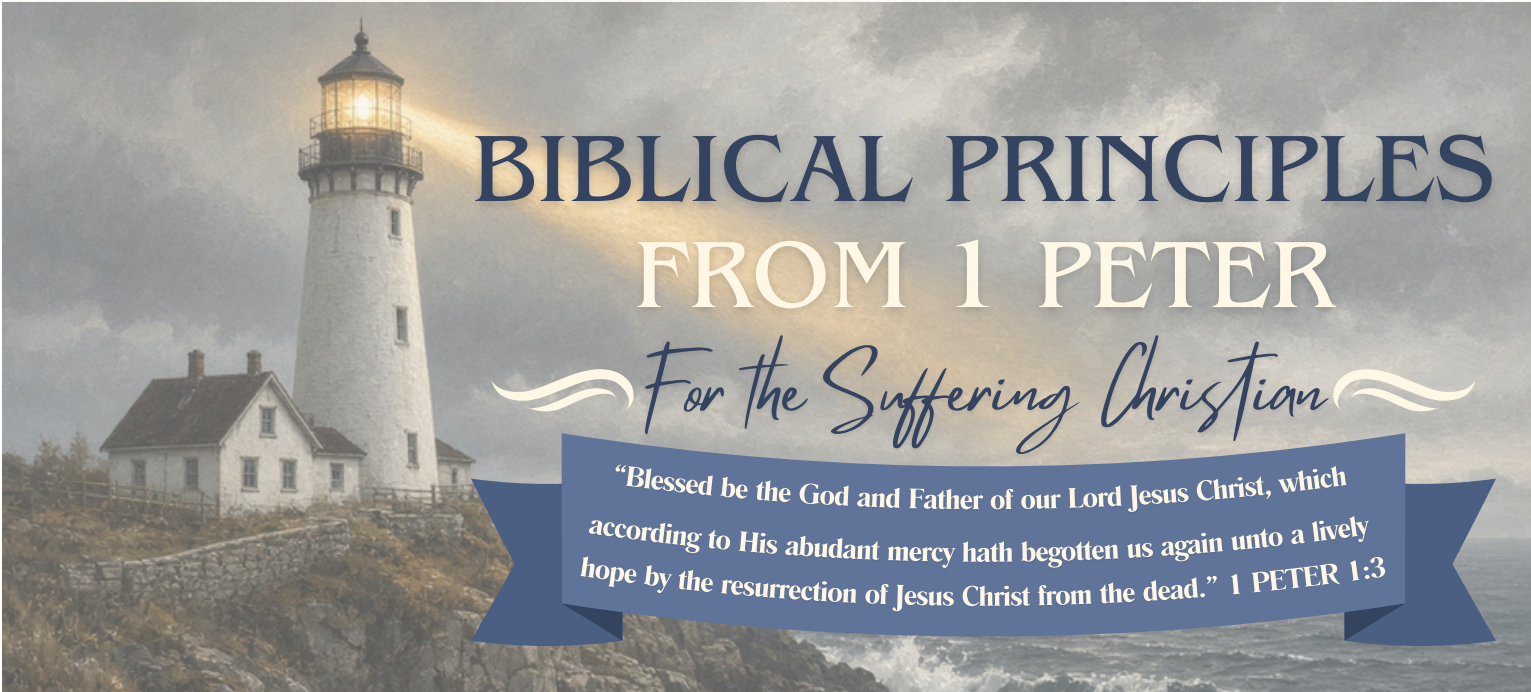




BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FROM 1 PETER

For the Suffering Christian

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 PETER 1:3



1 OUR CONFIDENT HOPE IN GOD'S SALVATION

1. We are strangers and sojourners only traveling temporarily in this world (1:1).
2. We are chosen by God in our salvation, therefore we can trust Him in suffering (1:2).
3. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and will use His perfect means to accomplish our sanctification (1:2).
4. The entire Godhead of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are involved in my salvation and sanctification, which includes my times of suffering (1:2).
5. The divine Godhead multiplies grace and peace in my life (1:2).
6. My salvation provides a living, active hope and assurance based upon Christ's resurrection (1:3).
7. I have a reward in heaven that can't be stolen, and won't decay or be devalued (1:4).
8. I am kept by the power of God—my salvation is settled and my soul is secure (1:5).
9. I can rejoice in the truth that I am kept by God's omniscience (1:6).



2 THE PURPOSE AND VALUE OF SUFFERING

10. Suffering is temporary and a season (1:6).
11. It is perfectly acceptable to realize and to admit that suffering is hard (1:6).
12. I must realize that no two trials are identical (1:6).
13. Suffering is designed to test and purify my faith so my faith will bring praise, honor, and glory to God (1:7).
14. The greatest rewards for earthly suffering will be in heaven (1:7).
15. The glory of God should cause me to rejoice with unspeakable joy (1:8).
16. Through suffering I will receive a mature faith (1:9).
17. God's grace will be revealed at Christ's coming, until then, my faith grows and is strengthened (1:13).
18. Suffering should purify our daily manner of living from former, fleshly lusts (1:14).
19. Because God is holy, I must live holy in every part of my life (1:15).



3 RELYING ON GOD IN SUFFERING

20. I can call upon my loving heavenly Father in suffering (1:17).
21. I must remain sure of my salvation and live out of the gospel in my own life (1:18-19).
22. I must realize my faith and hope are in God (1:21).
23. Suffering will end, the Word of God is eternal—I must anchor my soul in the Word of God (1:23-25).
24. I must not use suffering to justify any wrong doing (2:1).
25. During times of suffering, I must desire the clear truths of Scripture and continue to grow spiritually (2:2-3).
26. In the midst of suffering I don't have to be confused because my faith is in God (2:6).
27. My faith in God causes me to accurately see Him as being the precious Savior that He is. (2:7)

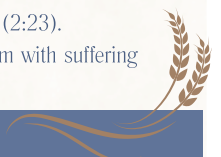


4 LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS

28. Sufferings must allow the light of the gospel to shine forth even brighter (2:19).
29. God's mercy is as real in suffering as it is in any other time (2:10).
30. I must exemplify good works in suffering (2:12).
31. Suffering in my life should produce humble submission to God-ordained authority (2:13-14).
32. I must give thanks in the midst of suffering if suffering is for a righteous cause (2:19).
33. I must patiently endure suffering, understanding that this is acceptable to God (2:20).
34. I must realize, as a Christian, I have been called to suffering; it identifies me with Christ (2:21).
35. When people abuse me I must not abuse them in return (2:23).
36. When people cause me to suffer, I must not threaten them with suffering (2:23).



Casting all your care upon Him for
He careth for you. (1 Peter 5:7)



"BE YE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY."
1 PETER 1:16



5 FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE IN SUFFERING

37. When I suffer, I must follow Jesus' example and commit myself and my situation to God, who is the Righteous Judge (2:23).
38. While I wait for God's judgment on those who cause suffering, I must rejoice in the gospel's work in my life (2:24-25).
39. Even in suffering, modest appearance and modest attitude are still important (3:1-4).
40. When I am in times of suffering I must give special attention to my marriage (3:1-7).
41. Husbands, especially in times of suffering, must selflessly honor their wives and not overburden them (3:7).
42. In suffering, I must be compassionate, loving, sympathetic, and courteous to those around me (3:8-9).
43. Good days in times of suffering don't come because of a change in my circumstances, but because we cast off what is evil and seek peace and good (3:10-12).
44. Examine the reason for your suffering to determine whether it is for having done wrong or for living righteously (3:14).



6 RESPONDING RIGHTLY TO PERSECUTION

45. When your suffering is persecution from other people and it is for righteousness take joy and don't be fearful of what evil men do (3:14).
46. When people see the joy of the Lord in you during times of suffering and persecution, be ready to point them to Christ in you (3:15).
47. Find your identity in Christ, not what others say about you (3:16).
48. Sometimes our suffering is God's will for our lives and for His purpose (3:17).
49. Remember Christ's suffering for sin and how He obeyed the will of God; have the same mindset and allow suffering to purify you from the lusts of your flesh and live in the will of God (4:1-2).
50. When facing persecution from wicked men, don't give in to their wickedness, rather, preach the gospel to them (4:3-6).
51. Suffering eventually comes to an end, so be serious-minded and continue in prayer (4:7).
52. Allow the love of God that has been placed in your heart to be projected on others—friend or foe (4:8).
53. Be hospitable to others, because they may be suffering as well (4:9).



7 ENCOURAGEMENT & COMMUNITY IN THE SUFFERING LIFE

54. Utilizing your spiritual gifts effectively and often makes the burden feel lighter (4:10-11).
55. Don't think you are the only one suffering through trials, this is normal for Christians, even Jesus suffered, we are partakers of His suffering (4:14).
56. It is our joy and privilege to identify with Christ through sufferings because the Holy Spirit will empower us through it all (4:14).
57. If I go through suffering in a proper manner, Christ will be glorified. The Moravian missionary motto used to be: "My the Lamb Who was slain receive the reward of His suffering" (4:14).
58. Don't be ashamed or anxious about suffering for being a Christian. Persecution must naturally cause me to cower in life or waver in faith (4:16).
59. Persecution and suffering divides the false professors of faith from the genuine possessors of eternal life (4:17-18).
60. I must commit my affections, emotions, and will—my life—to God because He will guard and guide me (4:19).
61. Persecuted, suffering pastors must fulfill their pastoral duties (5:1-4).



8 COMMITTING EVERYTHING TO GOD'S CARE

62. I must remain humble during suffering; I must not think more highly of myself than I should (5:6).
63. I must bring all of my worries and fears to God, especially during times of suffering; God can and wants to bear them (5:7).
64. I must be serious-minded and aware of satanic attacks in time of suffering, because suffering Christians are prime targets for the devil (5:8).
65. I must fight against satanic attacks by simply resisting (standing opposite of) the devil; others have, so can I (5:9).
66. I must believe by faith that God is still the God of all grace; my suffering doesn't diminish His grace (5:10).
67. There is a time when suffering ends (5:10).
68. The results of enduring well the suffering God allows are with what I endured (5:10).
69. I am not alone in suffering, I have brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage me (5:12-13).
70. There are others who suffer alongside me, I must encourage them (5:14).

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, Let him not be ashamed; But let him glorify God on this behalf." 1 Peter 4:15-16

