



## 1 Peter 4:12-19

### STILL STANDING - May 17, 2026

#### Message Recap

Peter writes to believers who are suffering, not because they failed, but because they were faithful. He reminds them not to misread the fire. Pain is real, pressure is real, and suffering can feel confusing when we've tried to obey God and still get hurt. But the fire is not proof that God abandoned us. Often, it's where God refines us, deepens our faith, and reveals what we're truly resting on.

Peter gives three clear commands for the fire: don't be surprised, don't be ashamed, and don't stop doing good. We are reminded that suffering for Christ is not something to hide from, but something God can use to form us. The world may reject us, misunderstand us, or shame us, but our identity is not defined by people's approval. We bear the name of Christ, and the Spirit of glory rests on us.

Finally, Peter calls believers to trust God with what they cannot control and continue walking in obedience. Mature faith is not having every answer, but it's entrusting ourselves to a faithful Creator while continuing to love, serve, forgive, and do good even in the fire.

#### Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**  
What's something you expected would be easy in life that turned out to be much harder than you imagined?
- **Reflection:**  
What part of the message resonated with you the most?

#### Discussion Questions

- Peter says, "Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal." Why do you think suffering can feel so disorienting, even for people with strong faith?
- The message talked about "misreading the fire." What are some wrong conclusions people commonly draw during painful seasons? Has there been a time when you've drawn the wrong conclusion?
- Pastor Byron said, "God did not call you to control outcomes. He called you to be faithful in obedience." Where do you most struggle to release control of outcomes?

- Peter says to “continue to do good.” Why is continuing to love, serve, forgive, and obey often hardest after we’ve been hurt?
- Is there an area of your life right now where you need to stop interpreting pain as abandonment and start trusting God’s presence in the middle of it?

### **For Additional Study**

#### **James 1:2-4**

**James teaches that trials test and mature our faith, producing perseverance and spiritual growth.**

- Why do you think God often develops maturity through pressure instead of comfort?
- Looking back, can you identify a difficult season that eventually strengthened your faith or character?

#### **Daniel 3:16-27**

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace for refusing to compromise, yet God met them in the fire.**

- What encourages you most about the fact that God joined them in the furnace instead of keeping them from it?
- Where do you need courage right now to remain faithful even if obedience becomes costly?