

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

**SERMON | 15 OCT 2023**

# STEADFAST IN SUFFERING

**1 Peter 1:1-9 and 1:13-16**

**PR CHEN SU-AI**



# THERE AND THEN 1-2 Peter, Jude, Hebrew

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EXTERNAL:

Pressure, Persecution, Suffering

# THERE AND THEN 1-2 Peter, Jude, Hebrew

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1 Peter : Encouragement to stand firm in  
suffering and persecution

## 1 PETER 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:12

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution...

## REVELATION 2:10

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

## **TWO MAIN AREAS:**

**#1** How do we prepare ourselves?

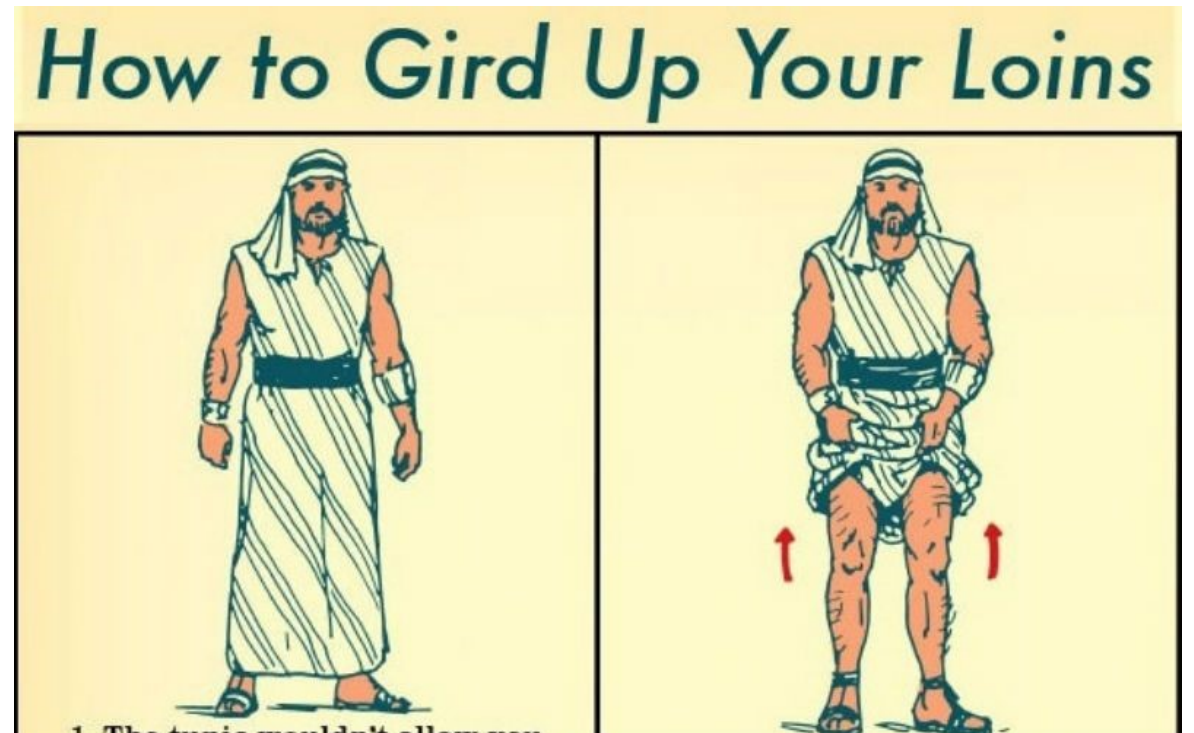
**#2** How do we respond in times of suffering?

# #1 HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES?

## a) Be prepared mentally for action

### 1 Peter 1:13

“Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind...





# #1 HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES?

## b) Be sober

### 1 Peter 1:13

“Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, **be sober**, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Today, what does it mean for us when we declare “Jesus is Lord”?

# #1 HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES?

## c) Be holy in all our conduct

### 1 Peter 1:15-16

“<sup>15</sup> but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

# #1 HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES?

- a) Be prepared mentally for action
- b) Be sober
- c) Be holy in all our conduct

# 40-DAY FASTING & PRAYER by NECF MALAYSIA



DAY 40 | FRI, 15 SEP 2023

## Be Ready to Suffer: At All Cost

*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Revelation 12:11)*

It is a glorious act to witness for the Lord. The Lord exhorts us to be faithful unto death in Revelation 2:10. The Lord demands that we serve *at all costs* in the end times.

# TWO MAIN AREAS:

#1 How do we prepare ourselves?

#2 How do we respond in times of suffering?

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### **Examples:**

- Rejection by family/relatives
- Marketplace
- Good works
- Mental anguish and/or emotional pain

## **#2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?**

**ANY FORM OF THREAT OR TESTING,  
BE IT FOR OUR FAITH OR IN LIFE.**

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### a) Remember who we belong to

#### **1 Peter 1:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...**



## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

“Whether we are descended from Abraham as Peter was, or are Gentiles, as were most of those addressed by Peter, we share together the wonder of God’s amazing grace in Christ.”

Clowney, Edmund P. (1988), “BST The Message of 1 Peter”. Inter-Varsity Press

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

“God’s choosing is the final reason that polluted Gentiles can be called His people... **to belong to God**, they must be redeemed from their sin and washed from its stain...”

Clowney, Edmund P. (1988), “BST The Message of 1 Peter”. Inter-Varsity Press

# I AM NOT MY OWN

Ben Shive | Bryan Fowler | Skye Peterson | Tom Anderson  
© 2023 Be Essential Songs | bryanfowersongs | Getty Music Hymns and Songs |  
Getty Music Publishing | Junkbox Music | Remaining portion is unaffiliated

## Chorus:

I belong to the Lord, I am not my own

I belong to the Lord, I am not my own

I will honor Him for this I know

I belong to the Lord, I am not my own

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### **Romans 14:8 NIV**

<sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### 1 Peter 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

Our suffering is also transient  
and for a temporal season.

**Remember  
whose we are and who we are**

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### b) Remember who is our living hope

#### 1 Peter 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

**“Peter writes of a sure hope, a hope that holds the future in the present because it is anchored in the past.”**

Clowney, Edmund P. (1988), “BST The Message of 1 Peter”.  
Inter-Varsity Press





## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

The resurrection of Jesus gave Peter a new hope.  
Jesus is Peter's living hope.

Remembering & knowing the person of  
**Jesus as our living hope**  
strengthens and sustains us in our suffering

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### c) Remember who keeps us

#### 1 Peter 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> ... to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,  
<sup>5</sup> **who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

# HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker  
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## Verse 1:

When I fear my faith will fail  
Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail  
He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold  
He must hold me fast

# HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker  
© 2013 Getty Music Publishing | Matthew Merker Music

## Chorus:

He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast

For my Savior loves me so

He will hold me fast

In times of suffering, know **WHO** is in control.  
God is still Sovereign.

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### 1 Peter 2:21

<sup>21</sup> For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps...

Remember that **God keeps us** by His power.  
On our part, we need to have faith to trust Him.

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### d) Remember the purpose of the suffering

#### 1 Peter 1:6-7

<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

### **Job 23:10**

<sup>10</sup> ...when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.”

What could be the dross that God may want to purge & burn away in our lives as we go through the crucible of pain & fiery trials?

## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?

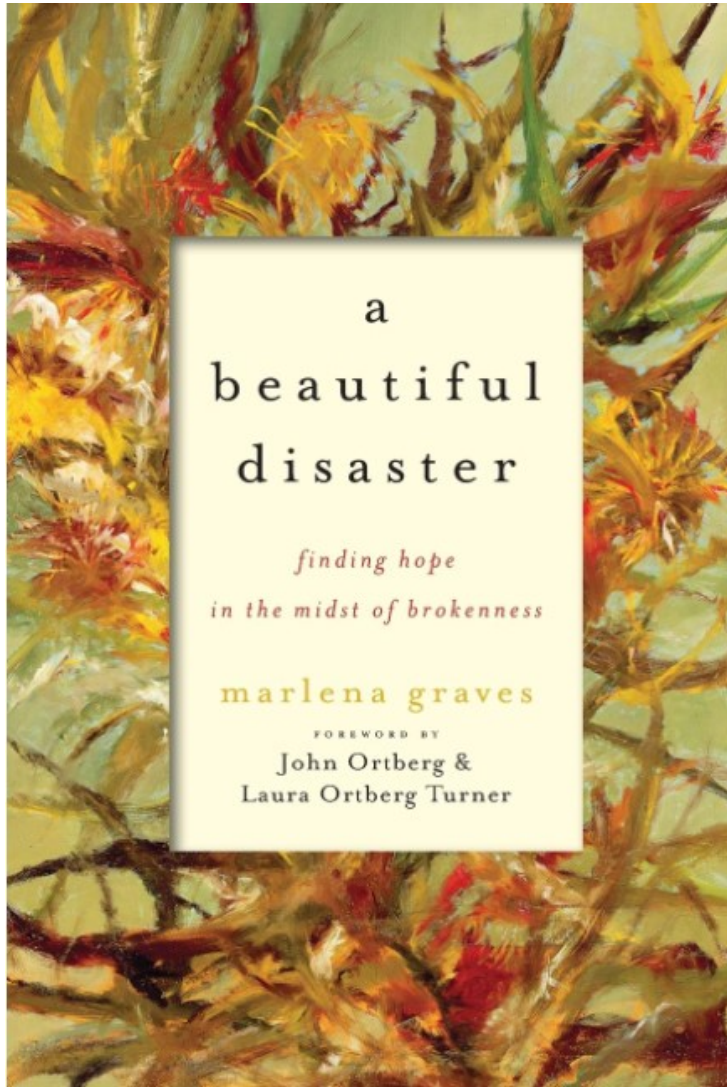
Why does God refine us?

It is the **process** that we go through as we grow up in the faith towards spiritual maturity and Christlikeness.

Remembering & understanding the **purpose** of the our trials & suffering helps us respond better



## #2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?



“...God does not force anyone into the desert out of cruelty. On the contrary, **God’s ultimate desire is to use our pain and suffering**, our angst and desperation, what the ancients and others (including me) call desert experiences, **to form us into Christ’s image, to steel our relationship with him**”.

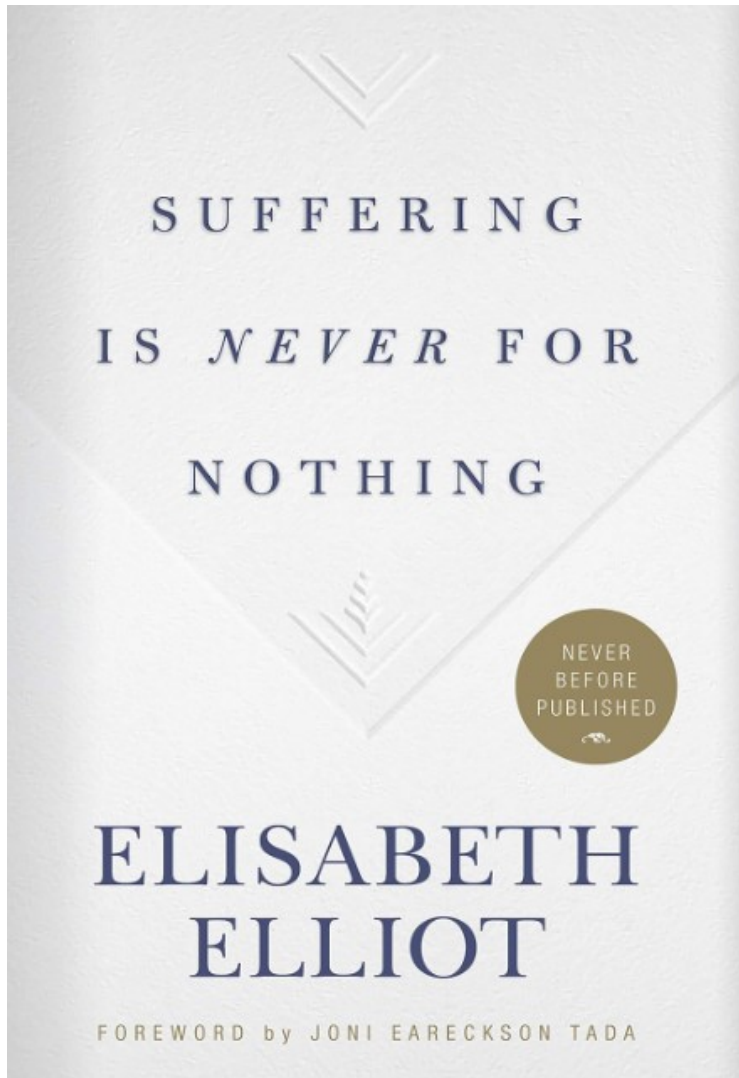
## **#1 HOW DO WE PREPARE OURSELVES?**

- a) Be prepared mentally for action
- b) Be sober
- c) Be holy in all our conduct

## **#2 HOW DO WE RESPOND IN TIMES OF SUFFERING?**

- a) Remember who we belong to
- b) Remember who is our living hope
- c) Remember who keeps us
- d) Remember the purpose of the suffering

# CONCLUSION



“There would be no intellectual satisfaction on this side of Heaven to that age-old question, **WHY.** Although I have not found intellectual satisfaction, I have found peace. The answer I say to you is not an explanation but a person, Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God.”

# CONCLUSION

## 1 Peter 5:10 NIV

<sup>10</sup> And the **God of all grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, **will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

**1 Peter is a letter of hope.**