

Peter calls us to respond to suffering in ways that can only be explained by an unshakable, all satisfying hope beyond this life.

### I. What are the reasons for suffering?

*2 Corinthians 4:8-9* (types of suffering): mental; physical; emotional; spiritual

- Choices we make
- Sins we commit
- Live in a fallen world
- Being a Christian
- God sends some suffering
- God allows all suffering

### II. How can I respond to suffering?

A. Suffering must be filtered through the living hope you have in Christ. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

- You have a living hope (v. 3)
- You have an inheritance (v. 4)
- You have God's protection (v. 5)
- You have a future (v. 5)

B. Suffering must be seen in perspective of God's eternal purposes. *1 Peter 1:6-9, 2:19-25; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

- God uses suffering to reveal our spiritual condition. *1 Peter 1:7*
- God uses suffering to display His glory and grace. *1 Peter 1:7; 2 Corinthians 1:4; 4:17-18, 12:9; Galatians 6:2*
- God uses suffering to humble us. *2 Corinthians 12:7; Hebrews 2:10, 5:8-9*
- God uses suffering to draw us to Himself. *2 Corinthians 12:8*
- God uses suffering to mature our faith. *1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; James 1:2-4*

### Take away:

- Fix your hope on Christ *1 Peter 4:19* (Our suffering servant)
- Follow His example *1 Peter 2:21-24, 4:12-19; Matthew 10:21-24; Luke 24:25-26; Hebrews 2:10, 5:8-9*