

# The Purpose of Our Trials

## 1 Peter 4:12-14

We shouldn't expect the Christian life to be easy and comfortable, because believers aren't exempt from trials. In fact, becoming a Christian may result in increased trouble and suffering. Peter refers to such hardship as a "fiery ordeal," and tells us not to be surprised by it (1 Peter 4:12). God uses our suffering for His good purposes, and He walks through it with us. Hope in the midst of affliction is possible when we understand what God is achieving in the situation.

**First, the heavenly Father sometimes uses painful experiences to purify us.** Trials drive us to the Lord and open our eyes to sins that we have tolerated. His discipline is not designed to crush us but to produce "the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Heb. 12:11).

**Second, the Lord at times allows difficulty as a way of testing us.** His goal is to produce increased faith, endurance, and devotion to Him. Rather than complaining, we should exult in our tribulations, knowing that they are producing proven character within us (Rom. 5:3-4).

**Third, God uses suffering to display His power.** Trials humble us by revealing our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). They teach us to depend on the Lord for the power to persevere and mature.

**Fourth, our suffering has eternal benefits.** Earthly affliction "is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Let these truths encourage you to view your next trial from God's perspective. Though you may not feel it at the time, the Lord is with you. He is your hope and sufficiency.