

Prepare to Suffer

1 Peter

by Don Falkos

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As Christians, we are aliens, foreigners in a world of foreigners. It should come as no surprise we will be persecuted, ridiculed, made fun of. It's a foregone conclusion: We will suffer for our faith.

But our suffering is not in vain. By God's mercy, we have been born again, and a priceless inheritance awaits us. But in the meantime we will suffer. So put all your hope in the salvation provided for us by the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb of God. We must live holy lives, just as God is holy. We must love one another and nourish ourselves on the Word of God. Then even our unbelieving neighbors will recognize God's presence in our lives.

For the Lord's sake, we must submit to legal authorities, honor our spouses, love and serve one another with the gifts God has given us, even when we're suffering for our beliefs. Jesus suffered for us; we must be prepared to suffer for him. And we must be ready at any time to gently and respectfully explain our hope in him.

Don't be surprised by the fiery trials that come our way. Suffering for our faith in Jesus is not a bad thing; it strengthens our resolve to avoid the evils of our past and makes us partners with Jesus in his suffering. Praise God for the privilege!

Stand firm in the faith! Love and support one another! And remember:

God opposes the arrogant
but gives grace to the humble.