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# Misjudging Hard Times

1 Peter 4:12-19

And as He (Jesus) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?”(John 9:1)

The great perplexity of cause and effect especially as it relates to God’s people and suffering--*The “strange” happenings of suffering and the deep insight of the Apostle Peter (see also Paul, James).*

*Consider 4 possibilities in suffering for being a Christian…*

1. Do not be surprised, God uses painful ordeals **to test** the authenticity of your faith (12, NASB).

 “…*which comes upon you for your testing…”*

*The deep end of Christianity is God’s purposed destiny for you.*

2. Rejoice and plan to be overjoyed if your hard time is because you **choose to be righteous**—you and Jesus are in the same league (13).

*Sharing in his righteousness would mean fellowshipping in his sufferings which would guarantee sharing in His resurrection and the revelation of His glory! (Phil.3:9-10)*

3. If you are insulted for **identifying with the name of Christ**, you are blessed. (14; cf. Matt.5:11-12).

It is evidence that you are in union with Jesus.

*Suffering for conscientious compliance with biblical teaching, shunning identity politicking in favour of our identity in Christ is not shameful—it is assurance that the Spirit of God rests in you.*

4. If you are a Christian, God’s love includes **ridding you of the sin** he hates because His judgment begins with His own house (15-18; Heb. 12:7)!

*This is for your own good now and to get you fit for His presence—so praise God!*

*This is a very bad sign for those who live in rebellion to Christ.*

*What to do?*

* Entrust your soul to your faithful Creator
* Keep doing what is right