

# Replace Shock with Joy!

1 Peter 4:12-14  
East Berlin Community Church  
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## Introduction

- Life is full of surprises! Some “good”, some “bad”
- Living for Christ in good times and in bad.
- Theme of Peter’s letter: unjust suffering of Christians

## Replace Shock with Joy!

### A. Trials and Suffering should not shock us!—1 Peter 4:12

1. The “fiery” trials of Nero and Rome.
2. “Shocking” forms of persecution endured by others
  - a. Old Testament saints—Hebrews 11:35-38
  - b. Daniel and his three friends—Daniel 3 and 6
3. All temptation and trials are “common”—1 Cor. 10:13

### B. Instead of shock, we should rejoice—1 Peter 4:12-14

1. **Our present suffering benefits our faith—1 Peter 4:12**
  - a. The “refining process” of trials—1 Peter 1:6-7; Malachi 3:1-3
  - b. God uses hardship to improve the quality of our faith. James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-4
2. **The degree to which we endure hardship will be the measure of the glory we will receive in heaven.—1 Peter 4:13**
  - a. The relationship between suffering and reward—Luke 6:22-23
  - b. Sharing in the “sufferings of Christ”—Phil. 3:10; John 15:21
  - c. Peter experienced joy in suffering for Christ—Acts 5:41
  - d. The glory of Christ revealed at second coming—Matt. 24:30
  - e. We will rejoice with “exceeding joy”—Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4
  - f. The “crown of life”—Revelation 2:10; James 1:12
3. **We are blessed with the very presence of God.—1 Peter 4:14**
  - a. Unbelievers hate the name of Jesus Christ—who He is and what He said and did.
    - 1) Who is Jesus—His claims.
    - 2) “On their part He is blasphemed”
  - b. The exclusive claim of Christ is what offends people.  
John 14:6; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 10:13
  - c. One day every knee will bow at the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:9-11) but not true presently.
  - d. When we are reproached for the name of Christ, we are blessed because the “*Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*”
    - 1) The *Shekinah* glory of the OT
    - 2) “Rest”—“gives relief, and refreshment”
    - 3) Experience of Stephen—Acts 6:15; 7:56