

In our lesson we have Peter's final words of instruction to suffering saints. Peter shows us in these verses the attitudes and actions we should manifest in suffering.

The contemporary theology of suffering believes suffering is unpredictable and unavoidable; we can do nothing to avoid it. We can only passively accept and endure, hoping it will end as soon as possible.  
[2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#)

We all should know that while God does not "cause" all suffering, He does allow it. No suffering comes our way, but that which God has purposed for our good and for His glory. [Romans 8:28](#)

Christians should not view their suffering as a negative experience. For the Christian, suffering is an experience in which we may rejoice. [1 Peter 4:12-13](#)

### Different Categories of Sufferings

(1) Suffering because we are a part of a fallen creation [Romans 8:18-25](#).

(2) Suffering the temporal consequences of personal sin (believers and unbelievers):  
[Deuteronomy 28:15](#), [1 Corinthians 5:1-13](#); [11:27-30](#).

(3) The eternal suffering of hell for rejecting Christ ([Luke 16:19-26](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:5-10](#);  
[Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

(4) The sometimes "involuntary" suffering or chastening at the loving hand of God is to enhance our trust and obedience as His sons and daughters [Hebrews 12:1-13](#); [James 1:1-4](#); [1 Peter 1:6-7](#).

(5) Voluntary suffering in identification with Christ and in living a godly life [John 15:13](#);  
[Acts 20:33-35](#); [Romans 12:10](#); [15:1-3](#); [1 Corinthians 8-10](#)

### The Appropriate Attitude For Suffering Saints

Old Testament prophets suffered [Matthew 5:12](#); [Acts 7:51-53](#)

Jesus taught that His followers would suffer [Matthew 5:10-12](#); [Mark 13:9-13](#); [Luke 6:40](#); [John 15:18-21](#);  
Jesus Himself suffered, setting an example for us to follow [1 Peter 2:21-25](#).

The apostles and many in the early church suffered, [2 Corinthians 1:5-7](#); [Philippians 3:10](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:3-4](#); [2 Timothy 3:12](#); [Hebrews 10:32-34](#);

We are to consciously choose the path of suffering ([1 Peter 4:1](#)).

### Why are some Christians surprised when suffering comes their way?

Because of false teachers which do not just modify the gospel; they proclaim another gospel which appeals to the flesh [2 Timothy 3:1-4:8](#), [2 Peter 2](#)

As a result, many think they are Christians who are really not. [1 John 2:19](#)

Also, a number of true believers fail to grasp the future survey of the blessings brought about by the sacrificial work of Christ.

They believe that because Christ suffered in their place, they no longer need to suffer. [Luke 9:23-26](#),  
[Acts 14:22](#); [2 Timothy 2:12](#); [3:12](#)