



# Holy Perseverance

*1 Peter: a long obedience to a living hope*



# KINGDOM HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

1 PETER 4:7-19



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober minded so that you can pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

## I. The Foundation of our Hope (vs. 7)

### A. Perspective & Hope



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

## I. The Foundation of our Hope (vs. 7)

A. Perspective & Hope

B. Pray!



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

## II. The Christian Community Anchored in Christ (vs. 8-11)

### A. Love Each Other Deeply (vs. 8)



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

## II. The Christian Community Anchored in Christ (vs. 8-11)

A. Love Each Other Deeply (vs. 8)

B. Create “safe space” (vs. 9)





# Hospitality

“Hospitality, therefore, means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger – the other person - can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. . . Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the lifestyle of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find God himself.”

Henri Nouwen, *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

## II. The Christian Community Anchored in Christ (vs. 8-11)

A. Love Each Other Deeply (vs. 8)

B. Create “safe space” (vs. 9)

C. Exercising Your Gifts Expresses Love (vs. 10 & 11)



# 1 Peter 4:7-11

## II. The Christian Community Anchored in Christ (vs. 8-11)

- A. Love Each Other Deeply (vs. 8)
- B. Create “safe space” (vs. 9)
- C. Exercising Your Gifts Expresses Love (vs. 10 & 11)
- D. To God be the Glory!



# 1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.





# 1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.



# 1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.



# 1 Peter 4:12-19

## III. God's Holy Work through Suffering (vs. 12-19)

### A. The Surprising Nature of Suffering (vs. 12)



# James 1:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything.**





# Romans 8:17-18

<sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also **share in his glory**.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the **glory that will be revealed in us**.



## 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that **this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.** <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that **the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.**



# 1 Peter 4:12-19

## III. God's Holy Work through Suffering (vs. 12-19)

A. The Surprising Nature of Suffering (vs. 12)

B. An Invitation to Join Christ (vs. 13)



## Your Plans



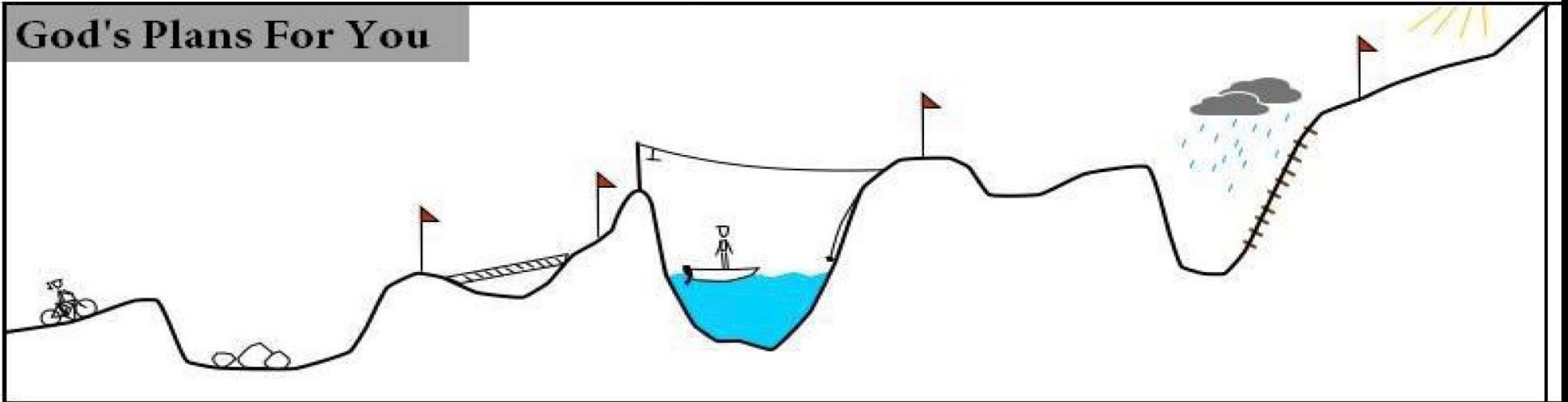




## Your Plans



## God's Plans For You



# The Invitation of Suffering

Suffering invites us to place our hurts in larger hands. In Christ we see God suffering – for us. And calling us to share in God's suffering love for a hurting world. The small and even overpowering pains in our lives are intimately connected with the greater pains of Christ. Our daily sorrows are anchored in a greater hope.

Henri Nouwen, *Turning My Mourning into Dancing*



# 1 Peter 4:12-19

## III. God's Holy Work through Suffering (vs. 12-19)

- A. The Surprising Nature of Suffering (vs. 12)
- B. An Invitation to Join Christ (vs. 13)
- C. The Blessing of Suffering (vs. 14-16)





## Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



# 1 Peter 4:12-19

## III. God's Holy Work through Suffering (vs. 12-19)

- A. The Surprising Nature of Suffering (vs. 12)
- B. An Invitation to Join Christ (vs. 13)
- C. The Blessing of Suffering (vs. 14-16)
- D. God's Righteous Judgment (vs. 17-18)



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- B. An Invitation to Join Christ (vs. 13)
- C. The Blessing of Suffering (vs. 14-16)
- D. God's Righteous Judgment (vs. 17-18)
- E. Live Out the Blessing! (vs. 19)



# Julian of Norwich

“All shall be well, and all  
shall be well and all  
manner of things shall be  
well.”

*Revelations of Divine Love*





# Staying Anchored in Christ in Uncertain Times

- Make space to cultivate your relationship with God
  - experience His love
- Observe “the hours”
- Pray the Lord’s Prayer
- Sing!





