

PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD

Houses of Light Church • October 8-9, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 4:1

"Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."

I. HOW IS IT THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST ARE RELATED TO OUR TURNING FROM SIN?

- A. **"Christ suffered in the flesh"** What kind of suffering does this verse refer to? Basically it refers to the suffering and death of Christ, as he said a few verses before:

1 Pet. 3:18 **"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."**

- B. **"whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."** So to suffer in the flesh means to die to the flesh. Christ's sufferings result in us dying to sin because we fully identify with Him. The biblical understanding of suffering in the flesh is that when Christ bore our sins in His body on the tree He did so so that in our union with Him and in practice we die to our flesh.

Rom. 6:6-7 **"We know that our old self[a] was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin."**

- C. **"arm yourselves with the same way of thinking"** From the moment Christ suffered in the flesh we are armed with the same determination. So this way of thinking is to say: *'I have died with Christ, just as He suffered and died, I consider myself together with Him dead to sin and alive to righteousness; therefore I hate sin and am committed not to sin.'*
- D. I have suffered with Christ therefore as a principle of life I will break sinful habits because I am completely united with Him. In practice I arm myself with a way of thinking that results in my willingness to give up worldly pleasures even though I am willing to suffer because of my decision.

1 Pet. 4:4 **"With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you."**

II. HOW DO WE ARM OURSELVES WITH A THOUGHT FORM THAT LEADS US TO STOP SINNING?

- A. The idea is that a conviction becomes an armor that protects our soul. It is a way of thinking that can free us even from internal destruction. Thinking like Christ protects us against the enemies who want to destroy us; so since we don't want to be destroyed we arm ourselves with this way of thinking.
- B. **What was Christ's way of thinking when He suffered?** The most complete version of this within Peter's letter is in this section:

1 Pet. 2:21-24 *"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

C. This is the kind of thought that Jesus had when he suffered:

1. **v.22a** *"He committed no sin"* That your suffering is not because you sin, that your obedience is better what causes you suffering as it happened to Christ.
2. **v.22b** *"neither was deceit found in his mouth"* When Jesus saw that he was going to suffer, he did not fall prey to the temptation to lie, thinking: 'I can get out of this predicament with a white lie so as not to have to suffer.'
3. **v.23a** *"he did not revile in return"* When Christ suffered He did not return evil for evil or threaten; so when suffering comes have the mindset that you are not going to respond harshly, keep this in mind.
4. **v.23b** *"continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly"* Jesus committed all injustice to the Father. When something bad is done to us we tend to immediately denounce it saying: 'this is wrong, you have no right to do it' but the way in which Jesus handled that moral indignation is that He entrusted Himself, that is, His whole situation to the Father saying : 'I am going to let God do justice; I'm not going to take care of this alone.'
5. **v.24b** *"By his wounds you have been healed"* We want our suffering to be like yours that brings healing to others.

D. We focus our mind and see what Christ did and hope fully in the grace that Jesus Christ purchased for us and in which He Himself waited for the Father to rescue Him from the same grave.

1 Pet. 1:13 *"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

E. Peter also talks about a war that comes against our soul and we fight that war first with hope and now with a way of thinking that allows us to have self-control.

1 Pet. 2:11 *"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."*

F. So you must have a mentality: 'I am not going to be dragged by sensuality, nor passions, nor parrandas because they make war against my soul. If I don't have a mindset that is willing to suffer like Christ then I will fall prey to these passions.'

1 Pet. 4:3 "For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry."

- G. There are things that we resolve saying: I am not going to do this because it is an attack of the devil against my soul.

1 Pet. 5:8-9 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, FIRM IN YOUR FAITH, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."

- H. The way of thinking that stands firm against the attack that our adversary wants to bring is our faith, being sure that the Lord loves us and will take care of us and will bring us out victorious until the end.

1 Pet. 4:10 "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

- I. The armor way of thinking is that we have our hope in Him and commit to deny ourselves and embrace by faith God's promise to walk with Christ in His path of suffering. **And this mindset becomes a weapon against Satan and against the sins that try to destroy our soul.**

III. AWAKENING A PASSION TO LIVE IN THE WILL OF GOD

1 Pet. 4:2 "so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God."

- A. **"as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh"** Here the phrase **"in the flesh"** does not refer to something negative but refers to our life in this human body as Paul also expresses it.

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"

- B. **"no longer for human passions but for the will of God"** There is a contrast between the passions of men and the will of God. **The life that ceases to sin has a purpose: to do the will of God.**
- C. The phrase **"human passions"** refers to negative passions or desires that exchange the will of God for the will of men. It should be clarified that the passions or desires of men; it can refer to desires that human beings have that are correct or to desires that originate in man and not in God.
- D. Peter refers to not living in the human desires that come out of us in our depravity, our sin and fallen nature, which have no reference to God and therefore are human in the negative sense but we can replace these human desires. with a passion for the will of God.
- E. So desires can also be good and important. We can and should have intense desires of joy for the confidence that the revelation of the glory of Christ will bring us.

1 Pet. 4:13 *"But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."*

- F. We can feel intensely something that aligns with the will of God. We can't think, 'I guess I just have to know what God's will is and not have strong feelings about it and just do it.' Many have said: 'do not do what you want but what God wants you to do' But there is a third option; there are ways in which my passions can be so changed by God because of the way he thinks because of what Jesus suffered for me that my passions align with the will of God.

Rom. 12:2 *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why does thinking like Christ lead us to stop sinning?
2. How does thinking like Christ protect us from soul destruction?
3. Do you consider that a passion for the will of God is awakening in your life?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **HOLY58 Youth Service** [For middle and high school youth] **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**
2. **The School for Parents starts on Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 pm.** Please register at www.housesoflight.org
3. **The sanitation rooms will be open on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m.** Please make an appointment at www.nhop.la
4. **Our Hallelujah Night family event is Monday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m..**