

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- I will memorize **Philippians 1:29 (ESV)**
- I will accept Christ for the first time or recommit my life to Christ
- I will join the New Life church family
- I will rejoice in suffering for Christ's sake

Join us on our **Prayer Line** by calling (712)832-7030. Enter access code, 1919#. The prayer line is **open daily from 6am-7am CST.**

2 Online Live Streaming Services Available:

Visit us at www.newlifeestl.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [YouTube](#) Channel (New Life Community Church East St. Louis)

Saturday
6:00pm

Sunday
11:00am

Please scan the QR codes below to access the connection card and giving link:



Connection Card



Giving Code

Suffering for Christ's Sake

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"Dear Friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? And also, if the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners? So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for you will never fail." 1 Peter 4:12-19 (NLT)

WHAT IS SUFFERING?

1. **SUFFERING IS DIVINE** _____.

"Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?"

Hebrew 12:7 (HCSB)

2. SUFFERING IS _____.

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (ESV)**

3. SUFFERING IS APART OF GODS _____.

"Therefore, those who are ill-treated and suffer in accordance with the will of God must [continue to] do right and commit their souls [for safe-keeping] to the faithful creator." **1 Peter 4:19 (AMP)**

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO SUFFERING?

1. RESPOND WITH _____.

"Dear Friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you."
1 Peter 4:12 (NLT)

"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it..."
John 15:18-19b (NLT)

"...I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you."
John 15:19c (NLT)

2. RESPOND WITH _____.

"Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory."

1 Peter 4:13 (HCSB)

3. RESPOND WITH _____.

"But if anyone suffers [ill-treated] as a Christian [because of his belief], he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God [because he is considered worthy to suffer] in this name." **1 Peter 4:16 (AMP)**

WHY SHOULD I SHOULD I REJOICE IN SUFFERING?

1. BECAUSE IT IS A _____ TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST.

"Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!"
1 Peter 4:16b (NLT)

MEMORY VERSE: *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake."* **Philippians 1:29 (ESV)**

2. BECAUSE YOU WILL BE _____ AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done."
Revelations 22:12 (NIV)

"Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven..." **Matthew 5:12a (NLT)**

3. BECAUSE THE SPIRIT OF GOD RESTS ON US _____ TRIALS.

"The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in the times of trouble." **Psalms 9:9 (NLT)**

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
Psalms 46:1 (ESV)

GIVE ME A _____ TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST.