HOPE and HOLINESS

in a hostile world

STUDIES IN 1 PETER

J. Sidlow Baxter's outline of 1 Peter ...

Introductory Greeting (1:1-2)

- A. The Living Hope—and What Goes with It (1:3-2:10)
- B. The Pilgrim Life—and How to Live It (2:11-4:11)
- C. The Fiery Trial—and How to Bear It (4:12-5:11)

Concluding Greeting (5:12-14)

Facing the Fiery Trial

1 Peter 4:12-13

In order to triumph in the face of fiery trials ...

- 1. Expect to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- 2. Rejoice in those trials.
- 3. Examine the cause for your suffering.
- 4. Commit yourself to God's care.
- → ¹Expect, ²Exult, ³Examine, ⁴Entrust

As believers in Jesus, we should <u>expect</u> to suffer for the cause of Christ.

- A. Don't be surprised by the intensity.
- B. Don't lose sight of the purpose.

I asked the Lord, that I might grow In faith, and love, and every grace; Might more of His salvation know, And seek more earnestly His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray, And He, I trust, has answered prayer! But it has been in such a way, As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour
At once He'd answer my request,
And by His love's constraining power
Subdue my sins and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry powers of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

Yea more, with His own hand He seemed Intent to aggravate my woe; Crossed all the fair designs I schemed, Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

"Lord, why is this?" I trembling cried,
"Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?"
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayers for grace and faith."

"These inward trials I employ
From self and pride to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou may'st seek thine all in me."

As believers in Jesus, we should <u>expect</u> to suffer for the cause of Christ.

- A. Don't be surprised by the intensity.
- B. Don't lose sight of the purpose.
- C. Don't be frustrated by the source.

In order to triumph in the face of fiery trials ...

- 1. Expect to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- 2. Rejoice in those trials.