

God's Desire is that We Escape the Flesh!

Look at 1 Peter 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 wrote an article earlier this month about why our faith causes suffering discussing this same passage. This article is still on that same subject.

God wants to rescue us from the temporary nature of the flesh, and to those who trust Him, He will save them. But the salvation comes through faith. Satan on the other hand wants to defeat God by drawing men and women away from His salvation. Peter even puts this thought into words in verse 6 of chapter four: *"For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, (that's you and me living in the flesh) that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does."*

Peter is getting down to a lesson from *"Christianity 101"* or the basic principles of spiritual living. When we were baptized into Christ Paul explains that the believer is baptized into Jesus' death. When we rise from the dead (in baptism) we walk in a brand new way of living. We begin a walk awakened by faith instead of seeing only the things of the flesh.

We were living in the flesh, but it was a terminal existence. Having been saved we were changed into a totally different creature! *"All things have become new!"* Just as Jesus died to save us by becoming an atoning sacrifice for us. We were baptized into that saving death, and God moved our life from the flesh to the spirit. Life moved from the terminal flesh when God moved it to our spirit which is like God's Spirit—eternal!

So life for us came through death. But now Peter shows us that glory follows suffering. Jesus suffered to give us glory. We have been converted to His spiritual life and we are called to suffer in the flesh till the glory is fulfilled in our new spiritual life.

Because we believe God we celebrate the glory even though in the flesh we suffer till mortality is clothed in immortality at our resurrection! Faith sustains us in this new spiritual life we live.

God bless your spiritual journey. Life came through death, and glory comes through suffering!

...Milt