



**Fireproof Your Conflict and Crisis**  
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Aim of tonight's lesson: Fireproof your life for times of conflict and crisis – How to turn a negative feeling or experience into a teaching moment in one's life.

- I. Author on page 141 suggests in times of adversity find older Christians who have walked the road of adversity – seek their counsel – consider their judgments – I Peter 4:12-19
  - a) Suffering (conflict and crisis) is not to be regarded as something foreign to the Christian experience but rather as a refining test; 1 Peter 1:6-7 – faith is refined through testing and suffering;
  - b) *Chap 4:12 – do not be surprised at the painful trials you are suffering as something strange is happening to you*
  - c) The idea of refining is found in the word “painful” – literally burning in the metaphor of refining of metals—fireproof
  - d) Usual response is sorrow, suffering, and in this case persecution, is shock, “why me?”, denial, bad karma, I deserve it – but Peter establishes the Christian response in vs. 13 – Rejoice
  - e) Why should the Christian rejoice? Because he or she is participating in Christ's suffering – Romans 8:17; 2 Cor 1:5-7; Phil 3:10;
  - f) Christian rejoicing rests on the fact that as Christians share in Christ's sufferings, so they will share in his glory with great joy;
  - g) Examples of Christians rejoicing in suffering for the name of Christ – Acts 5:41 – Acts 16:22-25;
  - h) Matt 5:11-12 – Blessed are you when people persecute you . . .
  
- II. Vs. 15 – Not all suffering is sharing in Christ's suffering and guaranteed blessing
  - a) If you suffer it should be because of union with Christ and not union with sin;
  - b) Pagan lifestyle – murder, thief, criminal or meddler (busybody)
  - c) If you suffer as a Christian – do not be ashamed -- -- praise God that you bear that name – vs. 16
  
- III. Important take away points from the lesson
  - a) The importance of seeking a mentor but also becoming a mentor p. 141 – a fireman never leaves a partner behind in a fire;
  - b) Do not fight too many fires at once – make fires stand in single file so you can face them one at a time;
  - c) It is not what happens to you, it is your response that makes the difference in life;
  - d) Resolve conflict spiritually – process on p. 145
  - e) God takes setbacks and fires and turns them into opportunities for greater ministry;
  - f) God turns negative feelings or experiences into teaching moments;

Final point: Peter learned this lesson in 1 Peter 4:12 firsthand. Let's look at the experience of Peter in Mark 14:16-22