

OUTSIDERS

Pastor Kris Beckert
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Never Hike Alone
1 Peter 4:12–5:11

Has there ever been a time in life you've felt extremely alone?

Facing difficulties on the trail of life:

I. The question of suffering: _____

1 Peter 4:12-14 *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

1. Don't be _____
2. Remember _____
3. Look for _____

II. The answer to suffering: _____

Peter's advice to the Christian community:

1. To the spiritually mature: _____

1 Peter 5:1-4 *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

2. To the young Christians: _____

1 Peter 5:5a *In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders.*

3. To everyone: _____

1 Peter 5:5b-9 *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

III. The good news about suffering: _____

1 Peter 5:10-11 *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

Main Point: _____

Field Notes: Reflections from outside



1. Have you ever wandered off a path or encountered something unexpected- and felt extremely alone? Did that time cause you to cling closer to turn away from God?
2. Looking back, are there people you feel God providentially brought into your life at crucial times? Who? How did God use them?
3. Where have you found a caring Christian community? How do you relate to that community? How could you?
4. In your workplace, neighborhood, or the church, who is someone you sense may be feeling alone? This week, make it a point to reach out and invite them to join you for a meal, and see what God does.

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email krisbeckert@thevineva.org / call 215.237.4959 to set up an appointment.