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Suffering in the Flesh

(How to cease from sin)

by
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1 Pet. 4:1 For as much then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

How do you "suffer" in the flesh? If you can figure that out.....and you do it....you have ceased from sin.

We know that sin is a demon's stronghold, their legal rights to stay. Would you like to shut the doors to demons in your life?

1 Pet. 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Here is our first clue. It is how we live our lives that determines whether we are "suffering in the flesh" or not. Whether we are with or without sin.

1 Pet. 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries;

Okay, simple enough, right? "the will of the Gentiles...or demons...evil lost people" doing what they do is living in the flesh....this is a true example of the flesh "not" suffering. This is how to live in sin....how demons can stay and party in you all day long! That is not good.....These things include....

Lasciviousness: insighting or evoking lust, greed, wantonness, it is lewd, obscence, coarse and indescent behaviour

Lust: strong passionate desire for earthly things and ways

Excess of wine: no ability to control yourself....giving into cravings

Revellings: looking for and enjoying controversy and fights

Banquetings: feasting and partying it up in your lusts

Abominable Idolatries: Being a god unto yourself, worshipping yourself and your needs

So how does one "suffer" in the flesh? You can't suffer in the flesh if you are living "in the flesh". If you are doing what your "flesh...demons" want you are NOT without sin! You are guilty as charged and following the "will of the Gentiles".

So how do I cease from sinning and suffer in the flesh?

Others (demons and demon possessed) speaking evil of you. This is the first sign that you have begun to suffer in your flesh. They speak evil of you when you stop doing what they want.

1 Pet. 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

So why should I quit running hand in hand with the demons in myself and in others....

1 Pet. 4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick (living) and the dead.

We know that there is judgement day coming. We will give an account for ourselves! It is out of our respect and true faith, fear, and love of God

that we quit running with demons!

1 Pet. 4:6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Even the demons who speak to us know that they will face judgement soon. If they know it, how much more do we need a true understanding that we will NOT be able to point at them and say, "they made me do it!" And we need to understand that, yes, we are influenced by demons, but to excuse someone's and our own behaviour on this basis is NOT acceptable to God and not to be accepted as truth by us either. We are in control of our faculties as Spirit filled believers and we have the power to do otherwise.

1 Pet. 4:7-9 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer and above all things have fervent charity (love) among yourselves: for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging (grumbling or complaining).

This is how to know that you are suffering in the flesh. You are obedient to the Holy Spirit and you love one another fervently, you are hospitable without complaining, you cheerfully go out of your way for others whether they thank you or not, you are sober, sensible and reasonable, you watch in the spirit, you have your eyes on God, you pray with your eyes on God. What else are you doing?

1 Pet. 4:10-11 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of

the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen

Notice it said "every" person has received a gift! You have a responsibility to the Body of Christ. Be a good steward of the gift or gifts given you. Speak only the words that edify others and minister to them. Don't burden them with demonic things. You will be doing whatever you do for the good of the brethren in fervent love and in the ability that God has given to you. So that God, through Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, is glorified and honored! This is living a life of "suffering in the flesh" and a life without sin.

Going Deeper

1 Pet. 2:19-23 For this is thankworthy (praiseworthy or acceptable to God), if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye take it patiently? but if when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no

sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

If you want to suffer like Christ and be acceptable to God than you will take abuse from others patiently without complaining, murmuring, or any attempt to justify yourself. Christ NEVER sinned! No one had a right to accuse Him of anything.....yet they did! He, as God Himself, did not seek revenge through words or actions to punish those who did this. What did He do? He gave it all to the Father. He committed it to God who judges righteously and He let it go! How much more should we, seeing we have committed numerous sins and are well deserving of death.

1 Pet. 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

So this is how we suffer in the flesh and die to sin. We live unto righteousness. We with patience take the abuse of others. We know that judgement day is coming for all and respect the Judge who sits on the throne and know that HE judges righteously. We love each other fervently, are given to hospitality and do not complain and criticise each other. We use the gifts He's given us to help others and we speak the words of God to lift up and edify oneanother. If someone does us wrong we in no wise seek to punish them. We leave judgement to God. We have ceased from sin.

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