STUDY 9: Arm Yourselves to Suffer Well

1 Peter 4v1-6

DAY 1	▪ Read 1 Peter 1:13; 2:11; 4:1, 7; 5:8. A key theme in 1 Peter is the spiritual battle to put sin to death and live holy lives like Jesus. The key field of battle is the mind. ▪ A related picture is that of having the right weapons (Rom 13:12-14; 2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 6:14-17). What spiritual weapons (disciplines) do you have at your disposal? ▪ Do you have the right scripture verses and promises in your mind to arm you for battle? Commit to memorising some key verses from 1 Peter for this purpose (1 Pet 1:3, 18-19, 23; 2:9, 16-17, 24; 3:4-7, 15; 4:1).
DAY 2	▪ Read 2 Cor. 10:4-5. Do you take every thought captive? Or do you allow thoughts to randomly float around you mind? ▪ 1 Peter 4:1 says, "for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin". God often uses suffering in our lives to purify us from sin. How have you seen this principal operating in your life? Is he using suffering currently to purify you? ▪ Listen to It Is Well by Kristene DiMarco.
DAY 3	▪ Read 1 Peter 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3. What is the will of God for your life? ▪ Romans 12:1-3 says that in order to discern the will of God, we need to offer something to him and let him transform something in us. What are those two things? In what area of your life do you need to give him permission to speak? ▪ Listen to I Surrender All by Shane and Shane.
DAY 4	▪ Read 1Peter 4:3. Have you felt the emptiness & wastefulness of sinful deeds? ▪ Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, noting in particular verse 11. What changed when you became a follower of Jesus? ▪ Are you ever tempted to desire what the world desires? Do you ever envy their way of life? Read Psalm 73. Repent and remind yourself that God is near the righteous (Ps. 73v23-26).
DAY 5	▪ Romans 1:21-31 and 1 Corinthians 1:18 tell us why those who don't yet know Christ are surprised when we don't join them in sinful activity. ▪ Peter tells us two ways to respond when we are maligned (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:15). Do you tend to 'fight' or 'flight' when maligned? What do you need to do to begin to respond in these more Christ-like ways that Peter gives us?
DAY 6	▪ Read 2 Cor. 10:3 and Eph. 6:12. Against whom is our fight? ▪ Read Rom. 12:17-21. Those who malign us don't have a problem with us, but with God. What should our response be? ▪ Is there someone past or present who has maligned you for your life of faith? Pray for them and ask God to draw them to himself.
DAY 7	▪ Read Romans 10:9-11. What is the only thing that can save us. ▪ Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 to remind yourself of the hope we have for this life and the next. ▪ Spend a few minutes praying for the person(s) the Lord has laid on your heart who particularly needs to hear the Gospel. Continue looking for opportunities to share.