# Reaching In to Nurture God's People

1 Peter 4:12-19  
Jerry Ferrso

**1. Expect trials to come into the church family.**

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1st Spiritual Trials

Acts 20:28-29

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

* Go to them personally. Matt. 18
* Go to them with another leader.
* Pray for them.
* Don’t publish it publically
* Guard your spirit.
* Forgive them.
* Don’t retaliate.
* Love them.

2nd Physical Trials

* Be present
* Read Scriptures
* Pray for them
* Provide meals
* Serve the family

James 1:27

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

**2. Embrace trials on the basis of God’s sovereignty.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

* God is in control.
* God is aware of your sorrows and heartache.

Exodus 3:7

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

* God does not expect us to change our trials but we are responsible in how we go through our trials.
* Be a good steward of your trials!
* We must receive the trial. (Embrace it)
* We must rejoice and be thankful for what the Lord is going to do because of the trial.

1Thessalonians 5:18

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

**3. Expose your Heart to the Lord and others.**

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**4. Evaluate your life during the trial.**

Psalms 26:2

Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

1Corinthians 11:28

But let a man examine himself,

**5. Educate God’s people during the trial.**

a. We all have trials.

Job 14:1

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

b. Trials are part of life.

Matthew 5:45

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

c. Grief is real and we all need time to go through the grieving process.

2Samuel 18:28-33

And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king’s servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.

30 And the king said unto him, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, Cushi came; and Cushi said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

32 And the king said unto Cushi, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushi answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

d. God wants to comfort us during times of grief.

2Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

* God’s Sovereignty
* God’s Love
* God’s Grace
* God’s Tenderness
* God’s Strength
* God’s Comfort

**6. Encouragement is needed for those going through a trial.**

a. Go to them.

b. Weep with them.

c. Laugh with them.

d. Pray with them.

e. Listen to them.

f. Offer hope to them.

g. Serve them.

h. Protect them.

i. Share promises with them.

j. Grieve with them.

k. Counsel them.

(sleep is needed, eating is necessary, go home and shower)

l. Being present helps them.