



1 PETER

4 : 12–19

*“The Baptist Church of Franklin exists to make **more** and **better** followers of Jesus Christ.”* — BCF Membership Binder

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. —Galatians 5:22-23a

OBSERVE

Peter writes in 4:12 ...do not be surprised (*zen-ID-zoh*) at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange (*ZEE-nos*) were happening to you.

- In this verse, the words which Peter uses for surprised and strange are related to our word *xenophobia* (which means to fear that which is alien or foreign). Why might Christians find it surprising or strange that they would suffer for Christ?

An alternate translation of 1 Peter 4:12 reads, “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal (*pur-O-sis*) that has come on you to test you...”

- The word for fiery order Peter uses is related to our word pure. How is fire used to purify natural materials? How does the “fire” of suffering purify us?

