

## SAME SUFFERINGS

1 PETER 5:9-10

I PRAY THAT THIS WRITING WHICH IS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A BLESSING TO ALL WHO READ IT. MAY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO IS RICH IN MERCY SHOWER YOU WITH HIS GRACE. MANY TIMES WHEN WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A STORM THE ENEMY TRICKS US INTO THINKING WE ARE ALL THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN RELATE TO IT. WE KEEP EVERYTHING BOTTLED UP AND DON'T SHARE IT BECAUSE WE FEEL LIKE OTHERS WON'T UNDERSTAND. THE LONGER THE ENEMY CAN KEEP US IN THIS FRAME OF MIND THE MORE HE IS ABLE TO SLOWLY TEAR US DOWN. WHEN WE'RE IN THIS MINDSET WE ARE ISOLATED AND ALONE. WE ARE DISCONNECTED FROM THE BODY. IF WE STAY DISCONNECTED FOR TOO LONG THEN WE SHALL SURELY DIE. THE WORD OF GOD TELLS US "IF ANYONE DOES NOT ABIDE IN ME HE IS CAST OUT AS A BRANCH AND IS WITHERED AND THEY GATHER THEM AND THROW THEM INTO THE FIRE AND THEY ARE BURNED." IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE DON'T ALLOW THE ENEMY INTO DECEIVING US TO THE POINT WHERE WE DISCONNECT OURSELVES FROM THE BODY OF CHRIST. I'M NOT WRITING WHAT I HAVE READ OR HEARD. THIS IS MY EXPERIENCE. GOD IS LETTING US KNOW THROUGH HIS WORD THAT OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST ARE EXPERIENCING THE SAME SUFFERINGS WE ARE. WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THIS WE ARE ABLE TO OPEN UP TO ONE ANOTHER AND BE STRENGTHENED BY ONE ANOTHER. WE MUST STAND ON THE PROMISES OF GOD. HE PROMISED US IN HIS WORD "BUT MAY GOD OF ALL GRACE WHO CALLED US TO HIS ETERNAL GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE PERFECT, ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN AND SETTLE YOU." HE KNOWS THAT WE ARE SUFFERING BUT IT DOESN'T END RIGHT THERE. CHRIST IS DOING A WORK IN US THROUGH OUR SUFFERINGS. JUST AS WE SHARE THESE SAME SUFFERINGS WE ALSO SHARE THE SAME LORD WHO IS WORKING IN ALL OF US. WHEN WE PATIENTLY WAIT ON HIM IN THE MIDST OF OUR SUFFERINGS HE IS ABLE TO SHAPE US AND MOLD US. STAY STRONG IN THE FAITH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS BECAUSE OUR HOPE IS IN JESUS CHRIST. MUCH LOVE FROM YOUR BROTHERS IN CHRIST AT FCC YA200 LCW FEDERAL PRISON. KEEP ME IN YOUR PRAYERS THAT I MAY CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK OF THE LORD WITH JOY AND BOLDNESS AND SPREAD HIS GOSPEL NOT ONLY BY MY WORDS BUT BY MY LIFE. FROM YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST, BRO. ERIC TAPSCOTT