

What must I remember to choose suffering instead of sin?

1. Remember that suffering for righteousness is to be expected.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, ... 1 Peter 4:1 (ESV)

For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. Psalm 73:3–5 (ESV)

But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.' John 15:25 (ESV)

Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. John 15:20 (ESV)

2. Remember that it is always better to choose suffering over sin.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, ... 1 Peter 4:1 (ESV)

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)

3. Remember that a willingness to suffer for righteousness shows I made a break with sin.

...for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 1 Peter 4:1–2 (ESV)

4. Remember that the sin of my past is always more than enough.

For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 1 Peter 4:3 (ESV)

- 1. Sensuality — Living for what feels good at the moment.**
- 2. Passions — Living to satisfy my appetites physically, emotionally and sexually.**
- 3. Drunkenness — Drinking to the point of intoxication.**
- 4. Orgies — Wild Parties**
- 5. Drinking Parties — Drinking Contests**
- 6. Lawless Idolatry — Disgusting Pagan Worship**

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. Romans 6:13 (ESV)

With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 1 Peter 4:4 (ESV)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

5. Remember that everyone will give an account to God.

but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 1 Peter 4:5 (ESV)

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. Colossians 3:25 (ESV)

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 1 Peter 1:17 (ESV)

6. Remember that living for Christ is never a losing proposition, even in the face of death.

For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. 1 Peter 4:6 (ESV)

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)



Choose Suffering Over Sin



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