





A foundational “Why”

A powerful “How”





“Well done, good and faithful servant!”



Everything matters

-or-

Nothing matters

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)



Dear Friends



Final hope doesn't remove temporary pain...it does put it in a larger context.



1. Suffering can lead to God's glory



*2. Suffering can lead to sanctification
(Becoming more like Jesus)*



3. Suffering can draw the lost to Christ



4. Suffering can be the result of sin



5. Suffering can originate in Satan's activity



6. Suffering can be a mystery



7. Jesus is God's final and best answer



Dear friends, don't be surprised...



1. Suffering is surprising and disorientating.

2. It is essential that we learn to reorientate in suffering.

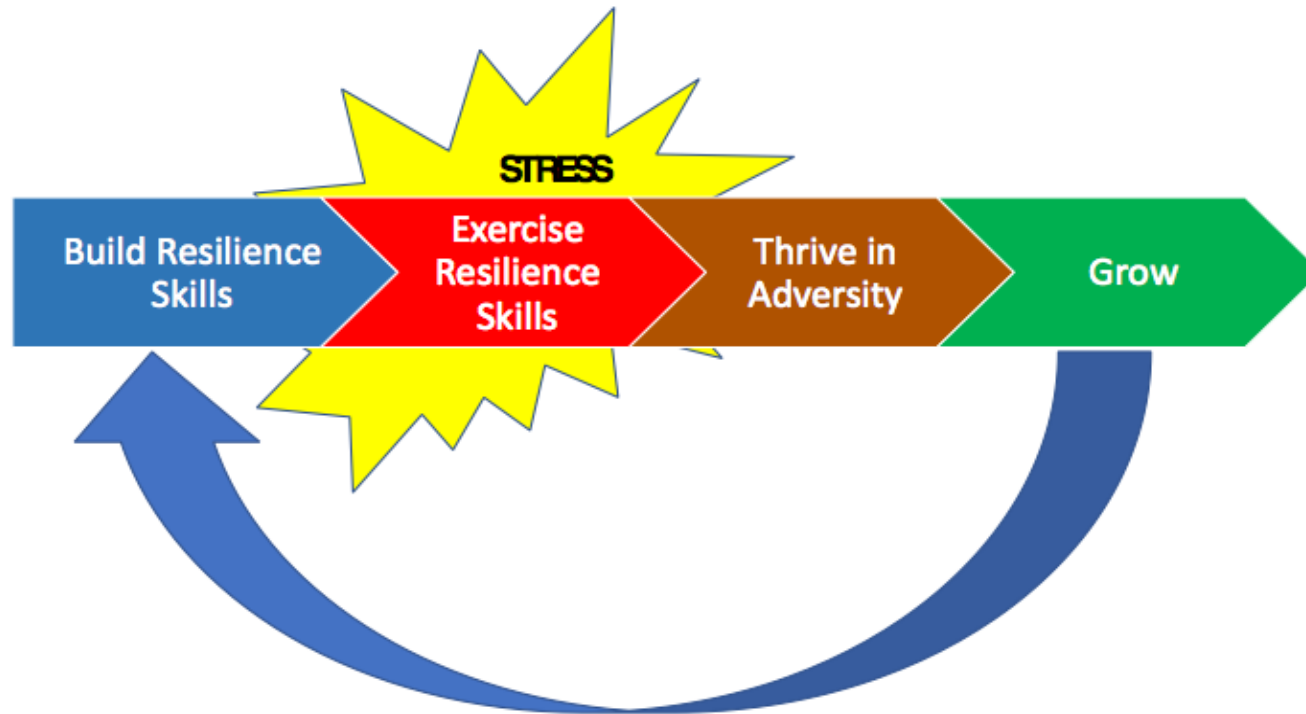


Two Ditches:
-Passive resignation
-Active unreality



1 Peter 4:12

A Protective and Corrective Truth



Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)



But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:13