



## ***LESSON SEVEN:*** ***The Wisdom of a Christian*** *Sunday AM Sermon by Ray Reynolds (9/4/11)* **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Text: I Peter 4:1-11**

**Introduction:** We are currently studying through the book of I Peter. His theme is the encouragement of Christians in suffering. Rome was just starting to persecute the Christians, and Peter in his wisdom chose to prepare them for this spiritual battle. He wants to address some spiritual issues, provide an explanation for the “fiery trial” (**I Peter 4:12**), and lift up the community of believers. Peter views the suffering of Christians through the agonies of Jesus, and recognizes the divine purpose of Christian suffering in light of the atonement of Christ. I believe he wanted Christians to establish an unstoppable faith. Specifically, we will be looking at the wisdom of a Christian in our lesson today. Let's study together . . . .

**Discussion:**

### ***I. Power for Temporary Suffering (4:1-3)***

- A. Christians receive power and strength when we suffer.
- B. Christians receive power and strength when we do the right thing.
- C. Christians receive power and strength when we rid ourselves of sin.
- D. Christians receive power and strength when we fight the good fight of faith.

### ***II. Perspective for Temporary Suffering (4:4-7)***

- A. Christians are not like the world.
- B. Christians are not wasteful.
- C. Christians are ready for judgment.
- D. Christians live in the Spirit as God lives.

### ***III. Praise for Temporary Suffering (4:8-11)***

- A. Christians praise God by living the transformed life.
- B. Christians praise God by showing love and serving others.
- C. Christians praise God by using their talents.
- D. Christians praise God by speaking the words of God.

**Conclusion:** Every Christian should have an unstoppable faith. You can run us over. You can hurt us. You can even kill us. But, you will NOT stop us. We are Jesus strong! We are filled with the Spirit of God! And, we have a hope that will keep us motivated to move forward. How's your faith? Have you committed your life to Christ?

***WORD OF THE DAY = "WISDOM"***