

How to Be Free from Sin's Power

1 Peter 4:1, 2

In 1 Peter 4 Peter encourages Christ-followers to keep on keeping on. Peter gives practical instruction as to how they can endure by pointing to Christ's perfect example.

1 Peter 4:1, 2 NLT:

*1 So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For **if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.***

2 You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.

Peter begins in verse 1 with the words “so then” or “therefore” (in other translations). This directs us back to Christ's suffering in 1 Peter 3:18, where Peter wrote: “Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.” So Peter begins chapter 4 by applying the principles of patient endurance when we find ourselves going through unjust suffering. Peter was preparing the people to whom he was writing because they were soon to suffer unjustly. He encouraged believers to arm themselves with the same courageous attitude or mind-set Christ had regarding suffering. The word translated “arm yourselves” (*hoplisasthe*) referred to a soldier putting on armor (Ephesians 6:13). With the same determination and care with which a soldier puts on his armor, Christians are to put on Christ's “attitude” toward persecution, which was a complete resolve to do God's will.

Our attitude toward life most often determines the outcome of our life, and a believer must have the right attitudes if he/she is to live a life that is pleasing to God.¹

Now with that said, there are two different ways that we might interpret 1 Peter 4:1. As usual when we have such situations of differing interpretations of the Bible, both can instruct us in God's truth and therefore be considered valid interpretations. However, there is most often one interpretation that applies more than the other because of what we learn from the preceding or following verses. We must never interpret a Bible verse based only on the verse itself. We need to go back to the beginning of the chapter to determine how the specific verse is used in reference to the complete idea being expressed in that chapter.

Let's consider the first interpretation. It is certainly true that in order to endure suffering,

¹ Wiersbe, Warren W.: The Bible Exposition Commentary. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. 1 Pe 4:1

Christians need to arm themselves with the same courage Christ had. They are to minister to one another with the same servant's attitude that Christ showed them. They are to commit themselves to faithfully serving God just as Christ did. They are to live in the present within the will of God with the understanding that in so doing they will live forever in Heaven in His presence.

One interpretation of these verses suggests that Peter is speaking in terms of the experience his people will have of suffering for the Christian faith. Those who suffer in meekness and in fear, who endure all the suffering that persecution can cause them and still not give in to sin, those are the Christ-followers that can be trusted to live a righteous life because temptation no longer has power over them. The idea here is that if a person can go through persecution and suffering and not deny the name of Christ, they come out on the other side with a character so tested and a faith so strengthened that temptation can no longer lead them into sin.

I like the logic here that every trial and temptation can make us stronger and better Christians. **Every time we resist a temptation it becomes easier to resist the next temptation.** You see Christians can easily get comfortable with sin; it can happen gradually, sometimes without even realizing it. We are to hate sin as Christ did. Sin has the power to destroy the balance of our lives on this earth, and for eternity, if we have not accepted Christ as our Savior by the time we die.

Just look at what sin did to Jesus. He had to *suffer* because of sin as we read in 1 Peter 2:21; 3:18. Did you ever think about it that way? You and I caused Jesus to suffer because of our sin. How can we not hate what caused Jesus to suffer and die on the cross? Christ's determination to obey God led to His suffering and death. If we arm ourselves with the same attitude Christ had, we'll accept any pain we might experience as the result of our determination to obey God by denying our own evil human desires.

Jesus came to earth to deal with sin and to conquer it forever. He dealt with the ignorance regarding sin by teaching God's truth and then living it for all the world to see. He dealt with sin by demonstrating His power to heal the sick. Jesus dealt with sin by offering forgiveness for it to all those who would repent and follow Him. He dealt with sin by dying on the cross and thereby striking the final deathblow to sin itself. Jesus was armed with a hatred for sin and a love for sinners.

Our goal in life should be to stop sinning, even though we won't be able to fully accomplish that while we're still here on earth (1 John 2:28–3:9). As we submit ourselves and place our faith and trust in God, and have the same attitude toward sin that Jesus had, we can leave the old life and begin living the new life.

Suffering + *Christ in our lives*, can = victory over sin.

I have no problem whatsoever with this interpretation. It is without a doubt sound biblical teaching. We can also look at 1 Peter 4:1,2 from the perspective that Peter had just been referring to baptism at the conclusion of chapter 3. And we can find no more powerful description of the meaning of baptism than is found in Romans 6. So before continuing with our discussion of the second interpretation of verse 1, let's go to Romans 6 and establish some background to better

enable us to understand how this alternative explanation could possibly be the correct one. In Romans 6:6-12 NLT Paul writes:

6 Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

*7 For **when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.***

*8 And **SINCE WE DIED WITH CHRIST,** we know we will also live with him.*

9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.

11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

Paul tells us how our body of sin is destroyed. In verse 6 we see that our old self was crucified with Christ the moment we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior. That means that our old self is dead. Therefore, at the moment you believe that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty that you should pay for your own sins, you become a new person. It could happen to anyone in this room who hasn't yet been saved. All they would have to do would be to admit to Jesus that they were a sinner in need of a Savior and tell Him they believed He died to save them from their sins. That new person is then one with Christ because the Holy Spirit of Christ now lives within them. Ephesians 4:22-32 NLT tells us:

*22 **throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception.***

23 Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.

*24 **You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true.***

25 So put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth" because we belong to each other.

26 And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

27 for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.

28 If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need.

29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.

32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as

God through Christ has forgiven you.

The old self is your former way of life, your former way of living. **The new self is like Jesus** according to 2 Corinthians 5:14-20:

*Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that **we have all died to the old life we used to live.***

*15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will **no longer live to please themselves.** Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.*

16 So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now!

*17 **What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!***

18 All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him.

One who accepts Christ as Savior is a new creation that is not yet perfect. A radical difference should be noticed by our friends and family as well as new people we meet. So when someone comes along claiming to be a Christian and yet they gossip, take advantage of others for their own personal gain, act as if life is all about them, are selective in who they want in their church, are accepting of beliefs that are forbidden in Scripture, such as homosexuality and abortion, these people are not showing signs of a life that has been joined with Christ. Where there is no evidence of such a change, there is very likely no salvation.

That's one reason that we started Village Church. The truth of the Gospel should be taught somewhere in the message each week. Pastors need to have the courage to teach the truth even though it might not be popular with their congregations.

Now let's take a close look at the phrase in Romans 6:6 that says "*Our body of sin is done away with.*" Before a person is saved their body is totally controlled by the sinful nature. Even if an unsaved person does good things, and many of them do, it is for the purpose of bringing glory and recognition to themselves. When a saved person does good, they give all the glory and credit to God. So because of our union in Christ's death, the body of the believer is no longer under the control of sin. It is no longer to be controlled and dominated by sin according to 1 Corinthians 6:19,20:

*Don't you know that your body is **the temple of the Holy Spirit**, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,
20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*

Your body is no longer under the power of sin, so you don't have to yield to it. The sin of the flesh which is part of every human being is no longer the controlling source of power in the

person. A saved person will have the greater power of the Holy Spirit to overcome any temptation to sin. You can successfully resist it by asking the Holy Spirit who now lives in you for help. The dominant rule of sin over the body is broken. Now let's look at Romans 6:16:

Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval.

When you ask Christ into your life, you get a new king and master. Jesus replaces Satan and this allows you to choose righteousness instead of self-will. In your own strength this is impossible but by yielding to the Holy Spirit, that is, letting the Holy Spirit control you rather than your own thoughts and desires, you can then choose to obey God. Galatians 5:24 does a good job of summarizing all of this:

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

The sinful nature has been killed in terms of its dominance, not necessarily in terms of its presence. A man by the name of Martin Jones came up with the following illustration to which I've added my own personal touch.

There were two fields with a little road running down the middle of them and separating them. All of his life, before he knew Christ, this man named Ron lived in the field on the south side of the road. This field was ruled by Satan, and Ron served this master faithfully. He allowed Satan to dominate him, dictate to him, and tell him what to do. His humanness, his flesh, and his body were therefore used for sin.

And then one day, by the grace of God, someone called to him from the field on the north side of the road, the field that was under the dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore controlled by righteousness and holiness which reflected the nature of the field's Ruler. Again, by the grace of God, Ron responded to the call and crossed over to the other field with Satan hanging on to his coattails trying to pull him back. But when he entered the new field, Satan had to reluctantly let go as Ron was transformed, no longer wanting to serve Satan but Christ.

But Satan never gives up easily and at various times Ron would hear Satan calling to him from across the road, telling him how much pleasure he would have if he only would come back to Satan's field. And although Ron was no longer under Satan's dominion, Satan in his own clever and devious way made Ron think that maybe it would be fun to just visit Satan's field occasionally for a good time. But whenever he did that, he realized

immediately the terrible mistake he had made and rushed back to the field of His Lord and Savior, Jesus. After a while, although he was still tempted to listen to Satan's call, Ron learned that Satan didn't care a lick about him, and all that he wanted to do was snatch people away from Christ so that he could destroy them and weaken the Kingdom of God. So when Ron was tempted again by Satan's call, He called out to his Lord Jesus and Jesus told him just how to resist the temptation.

Although sin no longer dominates us as Christians, we can fall victim to that very thing from which we have been delivered. Then as Paul moves on to Romans 6:8-10, we find that:

Since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life.

*9 We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and **he will never die again**. Death no longer has any power over him.*

10 He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God.

In verse 8 we see that **we have died with Christ and now have risen in new life with Christ**. We participate in the same holy life that Jesus lives, now and forever. Then in verse 9, we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again. Death has no more control over Him. Consequently it has no more control over those of us who have been joined to Christ by faith. We know this because verse 9 says that Christ is never going to die again. God raised Jesus from the dead and in so doing demonstrated that the power of sin and death had been defeated. When Christ defeated death He conquered sin and this was a final victory, to which nothing else needed to be added. Almost takes your breath away doesn't it?

And then verse 10 confirms that Christ died once and that **death has no more power**. Because Jesus died once and came out of the grave breaking the power of sin, those who believe in Him have also broken the power of sin permanently. It will never lay claim on them again. It will never be their master.

Verse 10 tells us that Jesus died to sin. Romans 6:2 tells us that believers died to sin. What's the connection? **Whatever it means for Jesus it means for us.** It means that Jesus died as the penalty for sin. Romans 6:23 says that "*The wages of sin is death.*"²

Therefore death, especially spiritual death, is the penalty for being a sinner. When Jesus died on the cross, He died to sin in terms of paying the penalty for sin. Jesus paid the penalty and met the demand of sin. God said in Genesis 2:17: "*You sin, you die.*" Jesus said, "*I'll take the*

² θάνατος, ἀθάνατος [thanatos /than-at-os/][#]. From 2348; TDN[#] 3:7; TDNT[#] 312; G[#] 2505 and together with Strongs 1 as GK 115; 119 occurrences; A[#] translates as "death" 117 times, and "deadly" twice. **1** the death of the body. **1A** that separation (whether natural or violent) of the soul and the body by which the life on earth is ended. **1B** with the implied idea of future misery in hell. **1B1** the power of death. **1C** since the nether world, the abode of the dead, was conceived as being very dark, it is equivalent to the region of thickest darkness i.e. figuratively, a region enveloped in the darkness of ignorance and sin. **2** the misery of the soul arising from sin, which begins on earth but lasts and increases after the death of the body in hell. **3** the miserable state of the wicked dead in hell. **4** in the widest sense, death comprising all the miseries arising from sin, as well physical death as the loss of a life consecrated to God and blessed in him on earth, to be followed by wretchedness in hell.

penalty of death for everybody.” So He paid the penalty of sin for everyone ever born.

When we accepted Christ as Savior we died in Christ, and our penalty was paid also. That is why a believer does not have to go to Hell to pay for their sins. The wages, which means what you deserve to get for your sin, is your death, and when you believed in Jesus as your Savior, **you died in Jesus who had paid that penalty. Consequently the penalty for your sin was paid by Him and that is why sin has no further claim on you.** So when it says in Romans 6:2 that we died to sin and in verse 10 that Jesus died to sin, **we come together.** Both of us can **die to sin together** in the sense of paying the penalty for sin. There is only one way for you to deal with your sin; **you must die.** And you either die in Hell forever paying for them, or you die in Jesus Christ where they are paid for instantly and you then qualify to spend forever in Heaven. The choice again is yours.

Now there's one more thing we have to cover here. Jesus not only died to the penalty of sin, but He died to the power of sin. You might say, “*Wait a minute, was Jesus under the power of sin?*” Absolutely. He bore our sins in His own body. In fact in 2 Corinthians 5:21, we read:

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Jesus was **temporarily** under the power of sin in a manner beyond our ability to understand. Imagine Jesus on the cross with all the weight of all the sin of all the people who ever lived throughout history heaped upon Him. **He was under the power of sin and it killed Him.** We need to clearly understand that Jesus was God and without sin. He did not have to die. He could have hung there on the cross for as long as He wanted to, and the Romans could have pierced His body with spears all day long and He would not have died. The reason that Jesus died was that He was willing to take all the sin of all time upon Himself and chose to pay for all of that sin with His death. You see, He still had power, but it was His decision to die for our sin that caused His death.³ In effect, Jesus volunteered for the most dangerous of all missions in all of history, saying to God: “Yes Lord, I know I am the only One who can be the perfect sacrifice for sin; put it all on Me. And when that happened, Jesus died. He would not have died without our sin being placed on Him because He was sinless.

By dying He bore the penalty for sin. By being raised from the dead, He broke the power of sin, and if you're a believer, you and I came out of that grave with Him and we are no longer under the power of sin either. We became a new person.

So let's take a look at this new person and what they can become. Paul sketches this growth process, which is called **sanctification** beginning in Romans 6:11:

*So you should **consider** yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.*

³ Luke 23:46; John 19:30.

Having risen from the dead and being dead to sin, the believer is now ready to move on. Paul is telling us that he has a desire to do what is right, a desire to see victory in his life, and a desire to do those things that please God. Here is a man who is struggling with sin, but who really wants to stop doing those things that make him miserable. Do we have those same desires? How can we achieve this goal? How does someone put off things that shouldn't be in their lives?

We need to understand the word "*knowledge*." It's basic to the principle of the Word of God that people first have to know what is true before they can put it into practice. The book of Hosea tells us that the people were destroyed because of a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Proverbs 1:7 NAS says:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

In other words God wants us to know Him. He says that is far more important than trying to show Him, or anyone else, how good we are. In this context the word "*know*" means to acquire information through your mind and pass it down to your heart so that you can make it happen. We get that knowledge in the Bible.

We come to know that God is in control as we experience His work in our lives; saving, guiding, opening and closing doors, arranging circumstances to help us become what He wants us to be. We could preach a whole series of sermons on knowing God, and maybe we will someday.

Suffice it to say that what Hosea is talking about here is a long way from mere head knowledge; it is heart knowledge gained through the experience of God's working in our lives. Isaiah writes in

Isaiah 1:2,3, NLT:

Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! This is what the Lord says: "The children I raised and cared for have turned against me.

*3 Even the animals—the donkey and the ox—**know** their owner and appreciate his care, but not my people . . . No matter what I do for them, **they still do not understand.**"⁴*

They did not know so they could not function properly. You will never be able to please God without knowing what He wants you to do. Let's read Philippians 4:6-8, NLT:

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

*8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing ... Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. **Think about things that are excellent and worthy***

⁴ Also see Jeremiah 4:22.

Then in Colossians 3:5-10 Paul writes:

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry.

6 God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things.

7 You used to do them when your life was still part of this world.

8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds.

10 In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.

In verse 5, where it refers to idolatry, you may blow that off thinking idolatry is something that happens in Africa or among primitive peoples. But no, folks, it happens to those of us in the good old USA too. Paul specifically here equates idolatry with being greedy for the good things of life. Idolatry also happens any time we put ourselves above God. So when we want to be totally in charge of our life, that is idolatry because God wants to be in control of our life. God is to be Number One.

You can't do what you don't know, so we begin by **knowing**. How many times do you hear someone say something like: "*I don't believe God would do that,*" or "*I don't believe Jesus was really God,*" or "*The Bible is nothing more than a collection of mythological stories,*" or "*God wouldn't send a good person to Hell. I do a lot of good things and have lived a good life for the most part, I'm sure I'll be OK.*" Where do people get such confidence? People who say these things know very little if anything at all about the Bible. They don't really know God. They don't have first-hand experience with the character of God. They are basing all their knowledge on assumption, on what they want to believe, or what a neighbor or co-worker has suggested rather than on the facts. And if they don't change their attitude, what a shock awaits them at death. We must read and know the Bible before we can reach any conclusions, either for or against what it claims is the truth. Most people are just plain ignorant concerning the most important decision they will ever make. What a tragedy!

In order to function properly we need **to know** that the power of sin has been broken. We need **to know** that we do not have to fall victim to the power of sin in our lives. We need **to know** that sin cannot force us to do that which is against what we know God would want us to do. And how do we know that? By receiving Christ as our Savior and experiencing Him setting us free from the power of sin. Now once you know that, you are on your way to victory because it puts confidence in your heart. The doubt is gone and the fear is gone. You know you're dealing with a defeated enemy that no longer has control of you. All of this begins with **knowing** God's Word in the Bible, and with **knowing God Himself**. The more you **know** about the Bible, the easier it will be to accept the things the Bible teaches.

Now what does it mean when you affirm that you are really dead to sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ? First it means that when we're tempted we can have confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us when we give our life to Christ. He will keep us from sinning if we just ask Him for help (1 Corinthians 10:13).

What more could anyone ask? For a believer, there will never be a temptation or trial that they cannot in the power of God have victory over.

Now I ask you to pay attention with all your heart to what we're telling you.

When you are free from the fear and temptation; when you are free from fearing an ultimate disaster because of your failures and your sins; and when you are free from fearing death, then you can fully enjoy the grace and blessings of Jesus in your walk with Him. That is what happens when you **know** and **believe** these things to be true.

John Stott has said that:

“The major secret of holy living is in the mind. It is in knowing that our former self was crucified with Christ, in knowing that baptism into Christ is baptism into His death and resurrection, and in considering that through Christ we are dead to sin and alive to God. We are to recall, to ponder, to grasp, to register these truths until they are so integral to our mindset that a return to the old life is unthinkable.”⁵

When Christ died, was His payment for sin sufficient? Absolutely! Therefore, when we died in Him that payment was sufficient for us. Sin can no longer make any claim on us. That's why we don't fear that God will cast us out even if we do sin. The penalty was perfectly paid by Jesus and the power of sin over us was broken.

Paul goes on to say in Romans 6:12 NLT:

(Therefore)⁶ *do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires.*

Verse 12 begins with the word, “*therefore.*” Whenever we see a “*therefore*” at the beginning of a sentence, we need to look back at what was just said. Verse 11 told us, “*You must consider yourselves dead to sin.*” So “*therefore*” “*don't let sin control the way you live.*” To make this practical in your day-to-day life, we could suggest that you ask God for help whenever you feel you want to do something you shouldn't. Then get in touch with people who can help you not to

⁵ Stott, John *Romans*, p. 180.

⁶ “Therefore” appears in most Bible translations. It does not appear in the paraphrased NLT which is quoted here.

do it. Ask a trusted friend or family member to pray for and with you. Talk with someone you trust either face-to-face or on the phone, maybe someone you know has struggled with the same issue, and explain what your dilemma and temptation is. Accept the love and support that individual probably wants to give you.

You know what temptation is like, don't you? It's that little voice inside that calls out:

<i>"I see it, I want it."</i>	<i>"It will feel good."</i>
<i>"I deserve it."</i>	<i>"It won't hurt anybody."</i>
<i>"No one will ever know."</i>	<i>"Everybody else is doing it, why shouldn't I?"</i>
<i>"Just wait, I'll get even."</i>	<i>"Just a little won't hurt."</i>

You know what we're talking about, don't you? If you pamper the body, entertain the body, and continually expose the body to temptation, you are going to have a problem because it is the body and all its sensory connections and feelings that are exposed to the world and can become channels through which temptations can draw you into sin, and then sin can have its way with you because you let it happen. That's exactly what Paul is telling us in verse 12, that sin would like to have control over us. But you do not have to allow it to have control over you. You have the power to choose. Your will to **want** to resist is a key ingredient here. If you want to resist you have the power to ask God to give you the strength to resist.

Through our faith in Christ as our Savior, we are identified with Him in His suffering and death, and therefore, because of that, we too can have victory over sin. We are being identified with the same suffering and death that Christ experienced. So in conclusion, Romans 6 is telling us that the experience of baptism is like being buried with Christ in death and raised with Him from death to newness of life. I believe this is probably what Peter is saying in 1 Peter 4:1,2. He has spoken of baptism at the end of chapter 3. We must remember that this is the baptism of a person who is voluntarily coming from a condition of unbelief to one of belief. In that act of baptism they are identified with Christ. They, therefore, share in Christ's suffering and even His death, and He shares His risen life and power, which gives us victory over sin. The rule of sensual pleasure is gone and the rule of Christ is begun. One day the judgment of God will come against the sin of the world and the pleasures of Heaven will compensate us far more than any of those self-indulgent pleasures we thought we could enjoy on earth. We died with Christ thereby suffering the same as He suffered. Because we were then part of Him, we rose with Him from the grave and because He lives in us and we are part of Him, we now possess the ability to stop sinning.

I believe both explanations we've looked at are powerful lessons we can derive from these two verses in 1 Peter 4:1,2. Let's go from here and do what we now know we have the power to do.