

The background is a dark blue gradient with white geometric lines and shapes. On the left, there is a vertical line with a circle at the top. On the right, there are several overlapping circles and rectangular outlines. The text is centered horizontally and vertically.

**ENCOURAGEMENT & HOPE FOR TODAY**

# Suffering for being a Christian

## 1 Peter 4:12-16

“<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

# 1 Peter 4:19

<sup>19</sup> **So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."**

# 1 Peter 4:7-11

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

## Ephesians 2:4-8

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,  
<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in  
transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God  
raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly  
realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he  
might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in  
his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—  
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—“**

## Colossians 2:13-14

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”

