

# 1 Peter 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

## Analysis

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Peter explains suffering's sanctifying purpose. "That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God" (eis to mēketi anthrōpōn epithymiais alla thelēmati theou ton epiloipon en sarki biōsai chronon). Purpose of suffering: liberation from "lusts of men" (anthrōpōn epithymiais)—sinful desires characterizing unregenerate humanity. Alternative: living "to the will of God" (thelēmati theou)—God's purposes governing life. "Rest of his time in the flesh" (ton epiloipon en sarki chronon) acknowledges remaining earthly life is brief. Peter urges: don't waste remaining time serving fleshly lusts; live for God's will. Suffering reorients priorities, clarifies what matters.

## Historical Context

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Persecution forced Christians to evaluate priorities—comfort or Christ? Suffering refined faith, burned away worldly attachments, focused attention on eternal realities. Peter encourages: use suffering redemptively—let it liberate from sin's pull, reorient toward God's will. Early church testimony shows persecution often deepened faith, purified motives, intensified devotion. Tertullian noted: "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church." Persecution paradoxically strengthened Christianity by eliminating half-hearted adherents while purifying committed believers. Modern application: suffering (persecution, illness, loss) can sanctify if we submit to God's will rather than resenting hardship.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How have trials or suffering in your experience helped break the power of specific sinful desires or worldly attachments?
2. What does it mean practically to live remaining earthly time 'to the will of God' rather than 'lusts of men'?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰς τὸ μηκέτι ἀνθρώπων ἐπιθυμίαις ἀλλὰ θελήματι  
**That** G3588 **no longer** **of men** **to the lusts** **but** **to the will**  
G1519 G3371 G444 G1939 G235 G2307

θεοῦ τὸν ἐπίλοιπον ἐν σαρκὶ βιώσαι χρόνον  
**of God** G3588 **the rest** **in** **the flesh** **he** **of his time**  
G2316 G1954 G1722 G4561 G980 G5550

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 1:14** (Parallel theme): As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

**Ephesians 6:6** (References God): Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

**Romans 6:11** (References God): Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:15** (Parallel theme): And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

**Ephesians 2:3** (Parallel theme): Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

**Romans 6:2** (References God): God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**Ephesians 4:17** (Parallel theme): This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

**Romans 14:7** (Parallel theme): For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

**1 Peter 2:1** (Parallel theme): Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

**Psalms 143:10** (References God): Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.