

SUFFERING AS A BLESSING

“FOR TO YOU IT HAS BEEN GRANTED ON BEHALF OF CHRIST,
NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE IN HIM, BUT ALSO TO SUFFER FOR HIS
SAKE...”

--PHILIPPIANS 1:29--

OUTLINE

- INTRODUCTION
- LESSON #1: SUFFERING HELPS US REJOICE
- LESSON #2: SUFFERING HELPS US ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL
- LESSON #3: SUFFERING HELPS US MATURE OUR FAITH
- CONCLUSION
- INVITATION

INTRODUCTION



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- The world views suffering as obstacles that cause pain or fear.
 - Christians must view suffering as opportunities for spiritual growth.
 - **1 Peter 3:14**, “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”

SUFFERING HELPS US REJOICE



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- **1 Peter 4:12-13**, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
 - **James 1:2**, ...“count it all joy when you fall into various trials.”
 - Literally, “when you meet trials” (internal as well as external).

SUFFERING HELPS US REJOICE



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- **Philippians 1:29**, “For to you it has been granted (given us-KJV) on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake...”
 - It is a privilege to suffer for Christ; **Acts 5:41**; “counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.”
 - **Acts 9:16** –Suffering is an expectation not an exception.
 - **Colossians 1:24** –Paul rejoiced in “his sufferings” for Christ/church.

SUFFERING HELPS US ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL



- **Hebrews 2:10** -“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”
- **2 Timothy 2:12** –KJV “if we suffer (endure), we shall also reign with Him.
- If we are “true” heirs of God (obedient faith), we must suffer like Christ (with Him, through Him, and in Him). **Romans 8:17-18**

SUFFERING HELPS US ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL



- EXAMPLES:
 - Congregation -Church at Thessalonica, **2 Thessalonians 1:4**
 - Individual –Epaphroditus, **Philippians 2:29-30**
 - **1 Peter 4:14; 16-** We suffer as God deems we are able to bear.
 - **1 Peter 3:17-** “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

SUFFERING HELPS US MATURE OUR FAITH



1 Peter 1:7 “...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”

Faith is only valuable when active (suffering actively teaches, refines, and produces patience).

Romans 5:2-4 – “The Mature Chain Reaction of Faith”

SUFFERING HELPS US MATURE OUR FAITH



Example: Moses, **Hebrews 11:25** (Exodus 2)

“No pain; no gain.” | **Peter 2:20-23**

2 Corinthians 12:7 –Paul’s true character was revealed

SUFFERING HELPS US MATURE OUR FAITH



James 1:4 –Natural response to suffering is not to escape but to accept.

2 Timothy 3:12 -...“all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

CONCLUSION



- Are you suffering as a child of God?
- Are you suffering as a result of your own choices?
- Why not let God help you address your sufferings?

INVITATION



Do you want to be God's Child?

*Come to Him today

Hear

Believe

Repent

Confess the Name of Jesus

Be Baptized

Were you God's Child?

*Return to Him today

Repent

Confess Sins

Pray Forgiveness

Live Faithfully