
GROUP DISCUSSION

Have you experienced the expectation Gap in your life? Take a few seconds and think about when you became a follower of Christ. What was your expectation of Life? What was one of the first trials you faced as a Christian? How did you handle it? How does that differ between how you handle trials and suffering now?

Why are we scared of suffering? For the early church suffering was a way of life. For the most part in America we have not faced the type of suffering they endured. Do you think we will come under more persecution in America in the days to come? How should we embrace suffering and persecution for Christs sake in the 21 st century?

Choosing Joy in the midst of suffering has got to be one of the most difficult things in life. How does choosing joy defeat discouragement in the midst of suffering? What brings us the most joy in life? Have you felt the Spirit of Glory resting on you? God does not leave us in our suffering rather he reveals himself.

When we go through suffering, we have the tendency to self-diagnosis. When we do this, we don't allow God to work through our suffering like He wants. We need to embrace the process of our "faithful creator." How has suffering changed you to be more like Christ? Where have you self-diagnosed and need to let God work in your heart?

"Continue to do good." What does that mean in your life? What good does God have for you to do in your sphere of influence? How can you glorify God in your family, community, and workplace?