The Difference Between Struggling and Suffering
Psalms 126:1-6

Study Guide

Most of us are all too familiar with struggling, and we're not familiar enough with escaping and walking free from struggles, burdens, and cares.

We're 'so familiar with struggling that people even sing songs about the struggles of life.

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Some people love to say trite, trivial things to those who are struggling, such as, "Hold on, the Lord is going to make a way someday. "

The Lord has already made a way!

John 14:6

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Your Response to Struggles

Let's look at that word "**struggle**" for a moment. When you hear that word, you picture someone bound by something he's trying to escape. So struggles are really nothing to testify about — struggles are for escaping!

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Are You Struggling or Suffering?

Now I want to show you the difference between struggling and suffering.

When someone is suffering, yet he's in faith, his suffering is something he endures for a protracted period of time and then it comes to an end. That person who's suffering is actually enduring suffering with faith and patience because he has a revelation of God that won't allow him to stay in that condition.

This kind of suffering consists of a period of divine endurance in which you learn divine principles that will help you get out and stay out of that place of suffering.

Characteristics of a Person Who's Enduring by Faith

A person who's suffering today doesn't see himself suffering tomorrow. He's expecting something different. If his condition hasn't changed by morning or by next month, next week, or next year, he's not moved. His attitude and constant confession is, "I may be going through lack now, but I'm going through it with joy because I know I'm coming out of this.

Many in the Body of Christ have been through cycle after cycle of struggling by working several jobs, "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul, looking with desperation for an income-tax refund, and so forth.

They don't see any way off the treadmill of the world's system that they're on. They're stuck because they don't see the way of escape.

People like this need teaching. They need a revelation from God's Word. They need hope for their future — Bible hope — the kind of hope that expects a favorable outcome to their situation.

Hosea 4:6

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Enduring the Process

Walking in divine prosperity and living in financial freedom is precious and dangerous at the same time. That's why you must endure God's way the financial pressure you may be experiencing instead of looking for a quick fix.

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When you do something as simple as give when God prompts you to give, and you praise Him even when things look bad, you are growing and learning. Your spirit becomes strengthened by the Word you're hiding in your heart and by your obedience to that Word.

So what should you do if you find yourself struggling? What should you do if you realize that you're not patiently enduring by faith as you ought to be doing? You ask God for wisdom, and the Lord will give it to you without finding fault with you, without reproaching you, and without saying an unkind word.

James 1:5

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If you're struggling instead of suffering, you're not walking by faith, and you're probably going to keep on struggling But if you're enduring, you're resting and trusting.

Hebrews 6:12

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A People In Captivity and In Need of Deliverance

Whenever I mention the words "**financial captivity**," some people think I'm talking about someone else, not about them.

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Most of the Body of Christ is in some sort of financial captivity. The reason I know that is, they can't step out and do what they want to do for the Lord because a lack of finances hinders them.

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Your financial captivity is not something you can escape! It's something you have to endure with patience — by faith in God and His Word — until you come out of it.

Never the Same Again

Enduring your financial captivity is the learning process during which you fully come to understand God's will. The main thing you must learn is that it's not God who's holding you back. Rather, God is setting you up through it all, positioning you so that when you come out of your captivity, "you will not go empty, and you will know how never to go back into captivity again!

Walking in divine prosperity is a way of life.

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You Were Built To Dream

Many people still don't believe God desires to bless them financially. But God's will is clear. Having your needs abundantly supplied, enjoying the fruit of your labor, receiving your heart's desires — all of those are legitimate blessings that God intends that you have and enjoy.

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There's nothing wrong with having your needs met so abundantly that you have a supply, or surplus, left to bless someone else.

Do you want something better for yourself than you have today? There's nothing wrong with that! In fact, you were built to have dreams!

Hold On to Your Dream

God can position you to march right out of your present condition into a future that's as bright with promise as the noonday sun!

Psalm 126:1-3

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This passage is talking about God's people being released from captivity. What does that mean to us today? Captivity in this country today can be captivity to some sickness or disease or to some other yoke of bondage, such as oppression or depression.

Imagine that you have become so well off financially that you never even have to think about money. Money is just there, waiting on your assignment.

When God turns our financial captivity, life becomes like a dream in every respect.

Do you have a dream? If so, are you trying to make it come true on your own, in your own strength? Or are you permitting God through the principles of His Word to deliver you and turn your captivity?

Forgetting Your Troubles

You can become so permeated with the life and nature of God through your cooperation with His life-giving Word that financial troubles, impossibilities, hopelessness, and despair will become unreal to you!

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This won't happen because you escaped your struggling by the skin of your teeth! It will be because you endured some situations by faith and you learned some things. You allowed God's Word to become a part of you, and it changed you. It changed your thinking, your giving, and your priorities concerning money.

Your Deliverance His Glory

God is able and willing to turn things around for you and bring you into your financial dream.

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When your life is like a dream, of course your mouth is going to be filled with laughter and singing.

The Lord wants to say something among the heathen today. He wants to display His glory and splendor among His people as a calling card to the heathen.

The heathens need to be saved.

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They need to see the goodness of God in operation and in manifestation in the lives of Christians. And Christians need to be able to fund the ministering of the Gospel on a large scale.

One of the saddest things in life is not to have enough money to do what you need to do.

People say all the time, "Where God guides, He provides." Yes, but is God guiding them? If He is, then He is guiding them in the pages of His Word to walk with Him by faith in His Word and by obedience to what is written.

As God guides you and provides for you, do you know how to handle money, or are you going to start something for Him that you can't finish?

The Key To Turning Your Captivity

Psalm 126:4-6

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What are you sowing? If you want to reap a harvest of financial freedom, you're going to have to sow a financial seed.

What Tears and Joy Have In Common

What do your tears and your joy have in common?

The same thing your sowing and reaping have in common: **seed**. You sow seed when you're in financial captivity — and you're still sowing seed when God brings you out and you reap your harvest!

The purpose for your prosperity is the fulfillment of His purposes in the earth.

Proverbs 3:5-6

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Doubtless, You Shall Reap

That word "**doubtless**" in this verse means that without a doubt, he who sows his precious seed shall come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves - his harvest — with him.

There comes a point when your sowing becomes joyous.

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With every act of obedience along the way, your trust will deepen more and more. You can endure suffering with patience, and see with your own eyes your captivity turned, your release secured, and your dreams fulfilled — **all to the glory of God.**