



Joy Ride

THE BOOK OF JAN
PHILIPPIANS

Joy in Suffering

**If you are alive,
you have suffered,
are suffering or will suffer.**

**Because of sin,
sometimes bad things happen.**

The question is not
“will we suffer?”, but
“will our suffering matter?”

Philippians 1:12

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that **what has happened to me** has actually served to advance the gospel.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that **we despaired of life itself.** ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

⁸ We are **hard pressed on every side**, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not in despair;

⁹ **persecuted**, but not abandoned; **struck down**, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 6:4-5,10

⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in **troubles, hardships** and **distresses**; ⁵ in **beatings, imprisonments** and **riots**; in **hard work, sleepless nights** and **hunger...**
...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;

**It's not a matter of if you will suffer,
but if your suffering will matter.**

Philippians 1:12-14

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me **has actually served to advance the gospel.** ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And **because of my chains**, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.”

**Will you suffer in a way
that God can do a good thing
in you and through you?**

How your suffering can have purpose

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2. Your suffering becomes an opportunity for the Kingdom to grow

**Your chains are a chance
for you to show Christ.**

**People may hear what you say,
but they are watching how you live.**

**God wants you to turn this
moment into a testimony.**

Philippians 1:15-17

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that **they can stir up trouble for me** while I am in chains.

Theology of Suffering

**1. Suffering cannot be avoided
by "having enough faith."**

Hebrews 11:37-39

³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ **These were all commended for their faith...**

**2. Suffering is not penance;
it is prospecting.**

John 9:3

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

**Suffering is not an act of atonement;
it is an act of sanctification.**

Romans 5:3-5

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that **suffering produces** perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And **hope does not put us to shame,** because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

**Suffering should be embraced
as a divine opportunity
for God to work through your life.**

**Instead of shame,
God is offering sanctification.**

3. Suffering is not a deciding factor for God's will.

**Our misunderstanding of
godly suffering can cause us
to pursue suffering wrongly.**

**Our misunderstanding of
godly suffering can cause us
to avoid suffering at all costs.**

Acts 21:12-15

¹² When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? **I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**" ¹⁴ When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, **"The Lord's will be done."** ¹⁵ After this, we started on our way up to Jerusalem.

Philippians 1:18

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this **I rejoice**. Yes, and I will **continue to rejoice**.

**Only in Jesus,
can our suffering can have purpose.**



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