

CLOSER

INTO THE BIBLE

“And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you.”

James 4:8a TLB

“and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Romans 5:2b-5 ESV

“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.”

John 1:14 NLT

“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 ESV

“My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can!”

James 1:2 TPT

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.”

Psalms 34:18 NLT

SERMON TAKEAWAYS

3 Things Suffering Produces:

- 1. Suffering Produces Perseverance/Endurance**
- 2. Suffering Produces Character**
- 3. Suffering Produces Hope**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. When you experience suffering or difficult times, what is your first response and why?*
- 2. The Bible says in Romans 5:2-5 that we are to rejoice in our sufferings. What are some ways that you can rejoice in your suffering?*
- 3. Pastor Dennis shared that you can be surrendered to your suffering. How does that shift your perspective as you are in difficult times?*
- 4. Suffering produces perseverance, character and hope. Which of the 3 is most difficult for you to digest?*
- 5. Pastor Dennis shared that the hope that comes from suffering is not a "false hope." It is hope that is grounded in the reality of God's love for us. In what ways do you hope in your suffering?*

PRAYER FOCUS

If you are in the middle of suffering, find ways to rejoice knowing your end result. You can cling to the promise that you can draw close to God and He will draw close to you; even in difficult times!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EQUIP SEMINAR - Spiritual Disciplines - Jan 22nd & 29th @ 6:30p - Mocksville Campus - 653 Wilkesboro St, Mocksville

Join us this week as we continue to learn spiritual disciplines that will practically help you draw closer to God and develop spiritual muscle. You will gain new insights into fasting, prayer and how to have a meaningful quiet time with the Lord. Space is limited so, SIGN UP & REGISTER ON THE APP TODAY!

THE WEEKENDER!!! - Jan 24-25 @ the Mocksville Campus

Have you ever wondered why you were created? The Weekender is the place for you. Are you looking for ways to connect with the church? The Weekender is the place for you! This is a FREE event with LIMITED space so sign up today!

THRIVE MARRIAGE CONFERENCE - February 21-22, 2020 7PM

God's design for our marriages is not merely survive, He wants our marriages to THRIVE! Join us for a powerful, 2-day conference with Clayton & Shari King (NewSpring Church) as your marriage reaches new heights! Make an investment into your marriage and sign up on the app today!