

Faith Through Suffering!

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT) *So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*

I. There is a negative thing that suffering can cause.

1 Peter 4:19 (NASB 2020) *Therefore, those also who suffer **according to the will of God** are to **entrust their souls to a faithful Creator** in doing what is right.*

When one does not understand Godly suffering, the first temptation is to **STOP TRUSTING GOD!**

Acts 13:13 (NLT) *Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. **There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.***

Matthew 13:21 (NLT) *But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.*

II. There are two types of suffering.

A. Suffering that we have been redeemed from.

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV) *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

Isaiah 53:5 (ESV) *But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.*

- **Separation from God**

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB 2020) *For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, **so that He might bring us to God**, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*

- **Sin**

1 Peter 2:24 (NASB 2020) *...so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed.*

Romans 6:14 (NASB 2020) *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.*

- **Sickness**

1 Peter 2:24 (NASB 2020) *...by His wounds you were healed.*

Matthew 4:23 (NKJV) *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

B. Suffering that we have not been redeemed from.

- **Submission:**

1 Peter 4:1-2 (NASB 2020) *Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same purpose**, because the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, **but for the will of God.***

Submission brings your will under His will. Jesus did not redeem us from the resistance of submission.

Galatians 5:17 (NLT) *The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

Proverbs 14:12 (NASB 2020) *There is a way which seems right to a person, But its end is the way of death.*

Hebrews 5:8 (NLT) *Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.*

Mark 14:35-36 (NKJV) *He went a little farther and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

- **Persecution:**

Peter 2:20-21 (NLT) *But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.*

****1 Peter 5:10 (NASB 2020)** *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV) *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Persecution: g1377. διώκω diōkō; a prolonged (and causative) form of a primary verb διώ diō (to flee; compare the base of 1169 and 1249); to make to run or flee, put to flight, drive away.

So, when you trust God with your Life, it goes against what the world says and does.

***Luke 12:52 (NKJV)** *For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.*

III. This suffering has a purpose

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT) *So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine.*

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT) *For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.*

Acts 8:1 (NLT) *Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.*

IV. The Blessing of Suffering.

***Matthew 5:10-11 (NLT)** *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

2 Peter 2:9 (NLT) *So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.*

Psalms 34:19 (NASB 2020) *The afflictions of the righteous are many, But the LORD rescues him from them all.*

Psalms 37:25 (NASB 2020) *I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging for bread.*