

Cheer Up 3:

Sacrifice and Suffering

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1. CHRISTIANITY INCLUDES SUFFERING IT DOESN'T EXCLUDE IT

John 16:33 Amplified Bible (AMP) "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have[perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world." [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]"

- 1.1** We WILL face tribulation, stress and suffering.
- 1.2** Sparring with the devil will grow us up.

1 John 2:13 (AMP) "I am writing to you, fathers [those believers who are spiritually mature], because you know Him who has existed from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men [those believers who are growing in spiritual maturity], because you have been victorious and have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children [those who are new believers, those spiritually immature], because you have come to know the Father."

2. WE HAVE A CROSS

Luke 14:27-30 (AMP) "Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a watchtower [for his guards], does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to finish it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is unable to finish [the building], all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!'"

- 2.1.** Christians are not Christians because they go to church.
- 2.2.** Christians are not Christians because they believe in God.
- 2.3.** You are a Christian because you have a cross.

3. WE ARE LIVING SACRIFICES

- 3.1.** A Humble life is not easy.
- 3.2.** Sacrifice is not easy, but it is worth it.

Sermon Discussion Guide

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OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Do you sometimes become discouraged because of the troubles you face in life?
2. What is the cross that you are currently carrying? Are you willing to make sacrifices for what you believe in?
3. Have the troubles you faced in the past turned you into a stronger person?