

# CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING

*1 Peter 4:12-19*









# THE THREE SOURCES OF SUFFERING

**LIFE:** Suffering due to the fallen nature of this world. Described as the natural experience of all people until the new creation. (Job 14:1, Ecclesiastes 2:22-23, Romans 8:20-22, Genesis 3:16-19)

**SINFUL:** Suffering due to the natural consequences of our own personal sin. Often described as punishment for non-believers and discipline for believers. (Galatians 6:7-8, Proverbs 5:22-23, Hosea 8:7, James 1:14-15)

**CHRISTLIKE:** Suffering due to our faithfulness to God. Described as a test/trial sent to us by God and an honor/blessing making us Christlike. (1 John 15:18-20, 2 Timothy 3:12, Philippians 1:29, 1 Peter 4:12-14)



## **1 PETER 1:6-7**

**In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

## **1 PETER 4:12**

**Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.**



**YOU CAN ONLY EXPECT ONE:  
CHRISTLIKENESS OR COMFORT.**





# THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUFFERING THROUGH CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING

REJOICE IN CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING: Strive to maintain a joyful, thankful disposition towards the cross during Christlike suffering.

LOOK AHEAD IN CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING: Remind yourself of the eternal life promised to you during Christlike suffering.

BE FAITHFUL IN CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING: Do not use this as an opportunity to sin during Christlike suffering.

ENTRUST YOUR SOULS IN CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING: Choose your actions, words, and attitudes based on God's divine Word during Christlike suffering.



# THE BLESSING OF SUFFERING THROUGH CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING

GOD'S GLORY IS IN CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING: Those who suffer like Christ are celebrated and glorified with divine blessing.

GOD'S PRESENCE IS IN CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING: Those who suffer like Christ can do so with complete confidence that God Himself is beside them at every moment.



# WHAT SIN CAUSES “SINFUL SUFFERING”?

**CRIMINAL ACTIVITY:** Disobeying the lawful governing authorities.  
Leads to legal troubles.

**MORAL FAILURE:** Disobeying the Word of God through sinful thoughts, words, or actions. Leads to divine discipline.

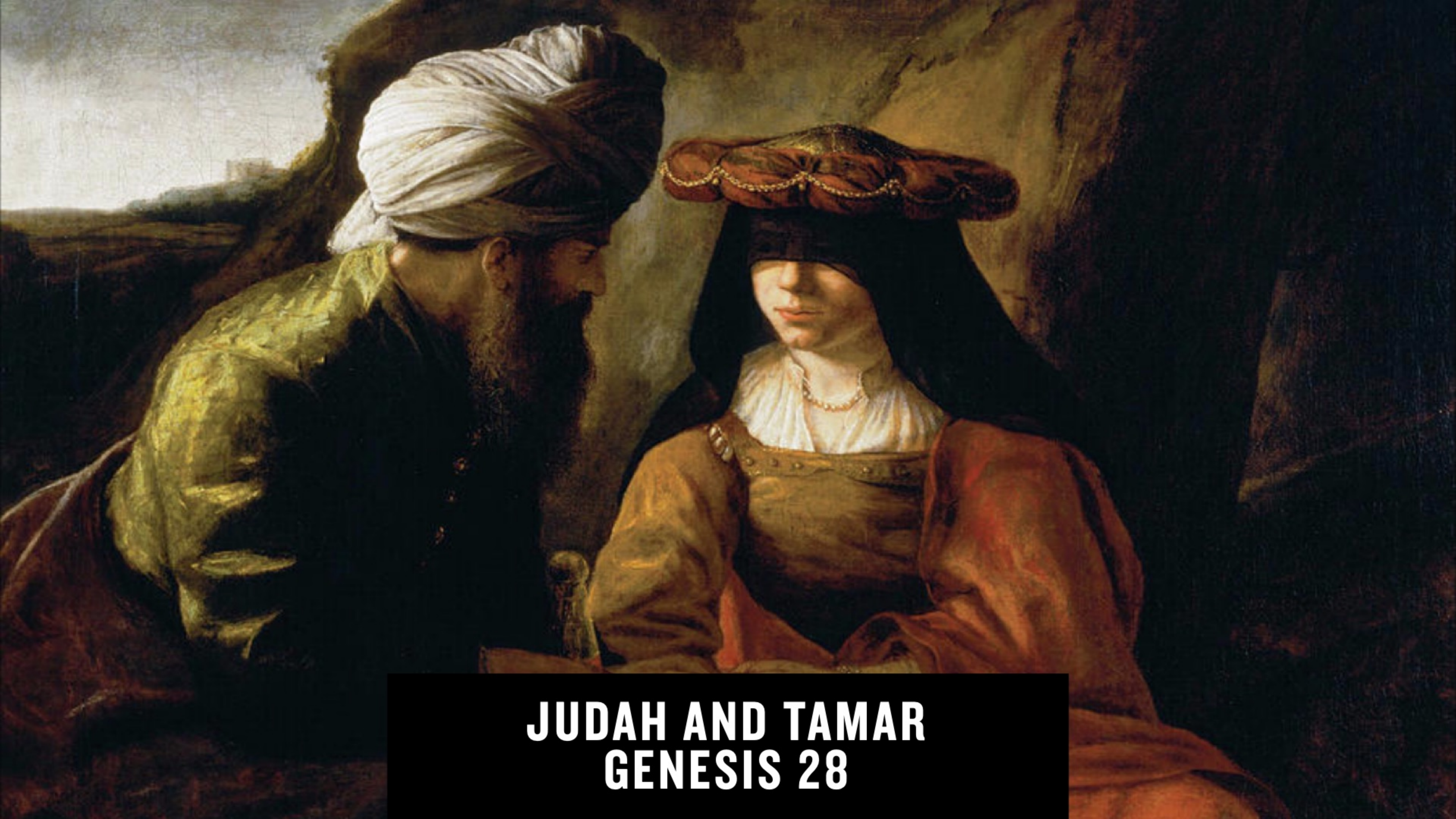
**SELF-RIGHTEOUS BUSYBODY:** Fretting over the life and affairs of others that God has not set you over. Biggest contributor to church destruction.





**REPENTANCE TRANSFORMS  
OUR SINFUL SUFFERING  
INTO CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING.**





**JUDAH AND TAMAR**  
**GENESIS 28**



# REPENTANCE: TO SUFFER JUST CONSEQUENCE “AS A CHRISTIAN”

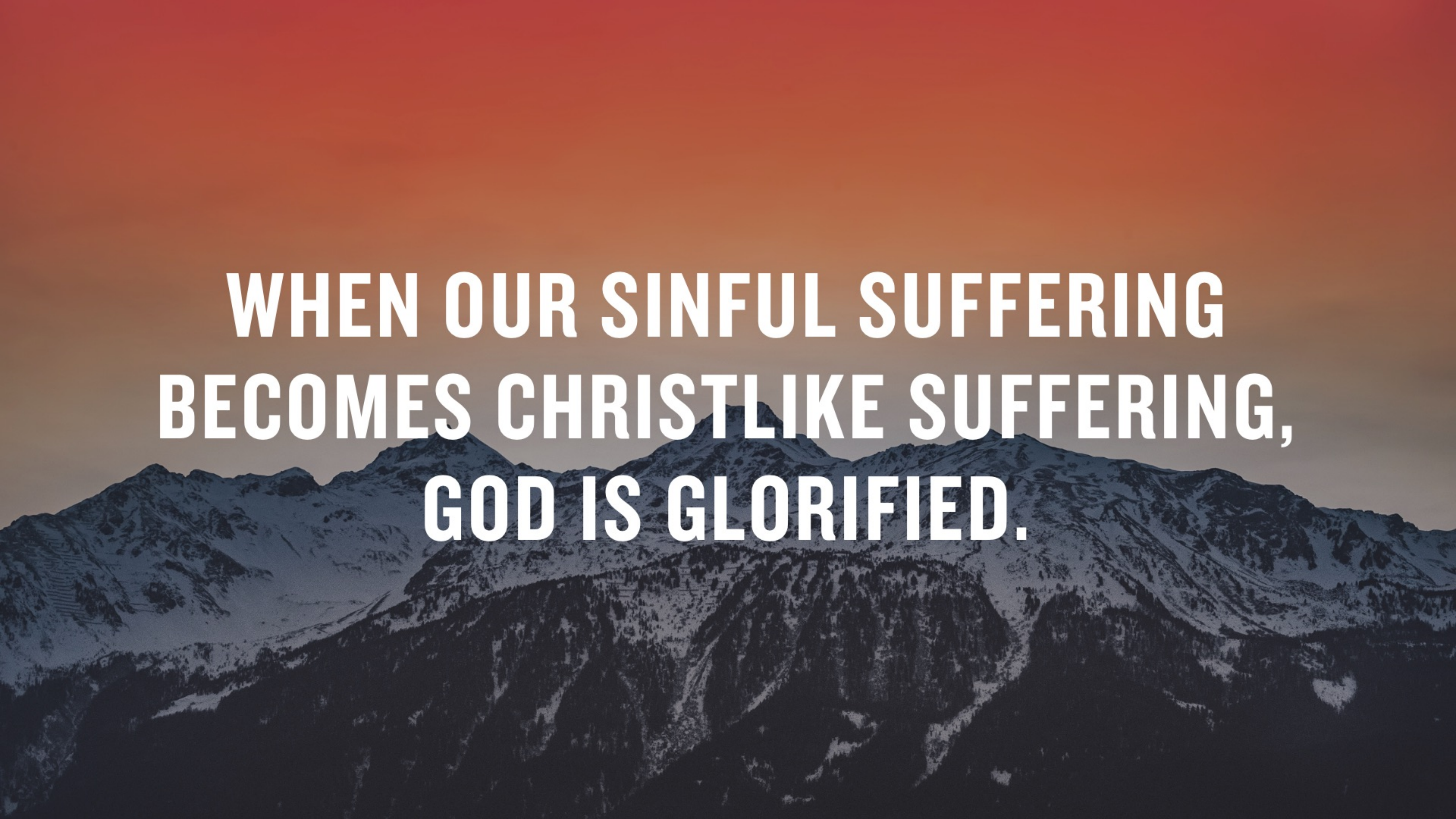
ACKNOWLEDGE GOD’S HOLINESS: First, we must painfully choose to measure ourself to the holiness of God, not the holiness of others.

CONFESS OUR SIN: Secondly, we must fully confess our sin first to God, and secondly to the offended earthly party.

WALK AWAY FROM SIN: Thirdly, we must completely accept any natural consequences of our sin and take extreme steps to end our sin.



**WHEN OUR SINFUL SUFFERING  
BECOMES CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING,  
GOD IS GLORIFIED.**







**YOU TURN MOURNING TO DANCING  
YOU GIVE BEAUTY FOR ASHES  
YOU TURN SHAME INTO GLORY  
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN**