

# THE PLACE OF SUFFERING IN GOD'S WORLD

## I. General Statements

1. Genesis 3:14-19 Began with the fall
2. Matthew 16:24 "Take up your cross and follow Me" (Voluntary suffering)
3. Romans 8:28 All things work together for good.....
4. Job 5:7 Man should expect and accept affliction
5. Matthew 5:45 Suffering comes to believers and non-believers
6. II Cor. 4:17-18 Our suffering is nothing compared with glory we will see
7. Isaiah 55:8,9 God's ways and thoughts are deeper than ours
8. Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord, not your own understanding

## II. The Glory of Suffering

1. I Peter 4:12 Don't be surprised by it - Don't say "Why Me?"
2. I Peter 4:12 To test our faith
3. I Peter 4:13 Rejoice that we participate in the sufferings of Christ
4. I Peter 4:13 To rejoice with Him when His glory is revealed
5. I Peter 4:14 Blessed if we are insulted for the name of Christ
6. I Peter 4:15 Does not include suffering for evil
7. I Peter 4:16 If we suffer for our faith; don't be ashamed; praise God
8. I Peter 4:17,18 For judgment
9. I Peter 4:19 Commit souls to God as we suffer
10. Colossians 1:24 Completing the suffering of Christ for the Church
11. Hebrews 12:7 God dealing with us as sons through suffering-for our good
12. Philippians 3:10 Sharing in the fellowship of Christ's suffering
13. Romans 8:17 Children and heirs of God, provided we suffer with Him
14. II Cor. 4:17 Preparing us for eternal glory
15. John 9:3 That the works of God might be shown

## III. The Discipline of Suffering

1. Hebrews 12:5-10 For discipline because God loves us
2. I Cor. 12:25-27 To develop compassion
3. Exodus 20:3 To take away anything we place ahead of God
4. Hebrews 12:11 Giving us peace later
5. Philippians 3:10 To become more like Jesus
6. I Peter 1:6,7 To "prove" our faith
7. Hebrews 5:8 To learn obedience
8. James 1:2-4 To develop ("complete") our character
9. Romans 5:1-5 Same
10. Job 5:7 To develop complete trust in God
11. II Cor. 12:7-10 a. To keep us humble
12. b. God's grace should make us able to handle suffering
13. c. God's power shows up in our weakness
14. d. When I am weak, God's strength shows through
15. II Cor. 4:7-10 a. We suffer, but are not destroyed
16. b. Carrying in the body the death of Christ to show His life
17. I Peter 2:21-25 The example of Christ regarding suffering
18. Hebrews 12:15 Don't let it cause bitterness

## IV. The Results of Suffering

1. Colossians 1:24 We will be completing the work of Christ
2. I Peter 2:19-20 We will gain the approval of God
3. Romans 8:16,17 We will be fellow-heirs with Christ
4. II Timothy 2:12 If we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him
5. James 1:12 We will receive the crown of life



GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON TRIALS

What does God want to accomplish in our lives through problems? Why does He allow so many testings? What is His purpose in it? Why must I go through it? How can suffering profit or benefit my Christian life? How can I live victoriously and abundantly through it all? What is my responsibility in the meantime and how can I cooperate with God in the process? Our questions could go on and on, but so will our problems if we don't ask God for His wisdom in dealing with them His way.

When we get right down to it, God really doesn't owe us any explanation. The only thing God owes us is punishment for our sinful rebellion against His laws and for our willful living of our lives apart from Him. But thanks be to God for both His wrath and grace which sent His own Son to the cross to take our sin penalty and punishment in our place. Because of trusting in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation, we are forgiven of our sins and given the free gift of eternal life. Thus we become His adopted children. It is now that we have the privilege of reading and understanding His written word to us. He has told us what He will do in our lives when we respond right.

Let's first of all define trials - "a trial is any circumstance in your life whereby you are responsible to obey the Word of God and make the right decision" (Dr. David K. Johnson). That definition doesn't exclude anything you will ever face, because we are always responsible and held accountable to God for whatever we think, do, and say (Rom.14:12). Purpose right now in your heart to always ask God for wisdom (Js. 1:5). Wisdom is the skillful application of God's perspective in your life. The only place you learn God's viewpoint on life is from His Word. The references are too numerous for me to comment on every one, so your own personal study of these will shed more light on your own "tailor made" trials.

Deut.8:2-6 James 5:10-11

Rom.8:14-39 James 1:2-11

II Cor.1:3-11 Job 1:6-12

Heb.12:1-15 Rom.5:1-8

Phil.1:12-30 I Pet.2:13-23  
Phil.4:11-13

II Cor.11:23-29 I Pet.4:12-19

II Cor.4:7-18 II Cor.12:7-10

II Cor.3:5 Job 42:5-6

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