

Understanding and Dealing With Suffering in Your Life

Definition of suffering: to experience pain or distress as the result of choices within our control and choices beyond our control.

I. The Reasons We Suffer

- A. Sometimes we suffer as a result of the _____ sinful choices we make (Galatians 6:7-8, Psalm 38:1-18).
- B. Sometimes we suffer as a result of _____ sinful choices against us (Psalm 119:161, 1 Samuel 26:17-25).
- C. Sometimes we suffer as a result of _____ to be godly in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:12, 1Peter 4:1-3).
- D. Sometimes we suffer as a result of _____ in serving for the sake of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:14-15, Matthew 5:11-12).
- E. Sometimes we suffer as a result of God _____ us so that we may be more productive in serving Him (John 15:2).
- F. Sometimes we suffer as a result of the _____ the devil seeking to trouble our lives (Luke 22:31).
- G. Sometimes we suffer so that the favor God has shown us doesn't lead us to be _____ (2Corinthians 12:7).
- H. Sometimes we suffer so that we may see the _____ of our faith which should result in character development, perseverance, rejoicing and hope in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (1Peter 1: 6-9, James 1:1-5, Romans 5:1-5).
- I. Sometimes we suffer as a result of the _____ of life beyond our control such as natural disasters or the malfunction of man-made items (Job 1:19, Luke 13:4-5).
- J. Some of us suffered the _____ of others as result of embracing the salvation of Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:5-7).

II. The Right Perspective to Consider when Suffering

- A. We must embrace the fact that God is in _____ of all suffering (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14, 9:1).
- B. We must embrace the fact that we will not _____ from the experience of suffering in this lifetime (John 16:33).
- C. We must embrace the fact that God has already undergone the _____ of all suffering on our behalf (2Corinthians 5:21, 1Peter 2:21-25).
- D. We must embrace the fact that God the Son and the God the Holy Spirit are praying on behalf of individuals who _____ to Jesus Christ to God the Father (Romans 8:26-27).

- E. We must embrace the fact that God will bring _____(transformation of character into the image of Jesus Christ) out of suffering for the individuals who belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-32).
- F. We must embrace the fact that God will bring _____ to the people who are His and are suffering as a result of seeking to serve for God's will and good pleasure (2 Corinthians 1:1-7).
- G. We must embrace the fact that God will bring the people who are His _____ the suffering they encounter accordingly (1 Peter 5:10-11).
- H. We must embrace the fact that God will inflict more _____ on the people who belong to Him when they refuse to turn away from practicing the sin that is currently bringing suffering to their lives (1 Corinthians 11: 27-32).

III. The Right Response to Practice when Suffering

- A. We must consider why we are _____; Is it due to choices within our control or choices beyond our control? (Sin, Satan, or Sanctification)
- B. If our suffering is from the choices we have made to _____ God in thoughts, desires, motives, or actions we must not be mad at God for the suffering He has allowed, but evaluate at what point we chose to operate apart from seeking to learn or accept the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 19:2-3, 13:15)
- C. If our suffering is from the choices we have made to _____ God in thoughts, desires, motives, or actions then through God's grace we must renounce our sin, repent of our sin, renew our minds in truth, and replace our sin with right living to restore the joy and peace to our lives. (Proverbs 28:13-14, Psalm 51:1-19, 32:1-11)
- D. If our suffering is from the choices we have made to _____ God or from choices that are beyond our _____, then through God's grace we must accept what God is allowing while submitting to what God has commanded according to our role and responsibilities, as we endure the suffering. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- E. If our suffering is from the choices we have made to _____ God or from choices that are beyond our _____, then through God's grace we must accept the fact that the fullness of God's power reigns in our lives when we suffer for His sake, resulting in Grace (support and kindness), sufficiency (contentment and satisfaction) and humility in our lives. (2Corinthians 12:7-10)
- F. If our suffering is from the choices we have made to _____ God or from choices that are beyond our _____, then through God's grace we must accept the fact that God may not remove our affliction that comes from suffering for his sake, but may allow it to stay so that we may experience fullness of God's power resulting in Grace (support and kindness), sufficiency (contentment and satisfaction) and humility in our lives (2Corinthians 12:7-10).
- G. We are to _____ God to handle the matters that have consumed us because God thinks about us, concerns Himself with us, and takes interest in us. (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- H. We are to be _____, self-restrained, and keep our minds from anything that will cause confusion as we anticipate the attack of the devil. (1Peter 5:8)