

# SUFFERING

God knew before He created man, that man would sin, and that Jesus Christ would have to suffer and die to redeem mankind.

God chose to create man anyway, God chose to suffer willingly because of His great love for you.

Because of sin, suffering entered the world.

Jesus said, "In this world, you will have trouble."

But, He also said, "Take heart, I have overcome the world."

Suffering can also mean; poor, afflicted, humble, wretched, to be or to become weak, sick, diseased or grieved.

It can mean hurt and ache and pain.

Suffering can be physical or it can be emotional.

Suffering can also be spiritual.

**1. There are three types of suffering; just suffering, unjust suffering, and all other suffering.**

Just suffering comes as a result of our own sin (which is not commendable).

Unjust suffering is when we suffer for doing what is right (which is commendable).

When we do something commendable, it is written down in heaven, God takes note of it.

The pain of childbirth normally ends in joy.

Likewise, other things we suffer can bring great joy when it's finished.

**2. The Lord hears the cry of suffering and He responds.**

God speaks to us in our suffering, but often we cannot hear Him past our pain.

We must believe that God is speaking even though we feel like He is not.

Listen to Him.

**3. The Lord comforts us in our suffering.**

We have to stay planted in the Word of God.

We must hang onto the promises God has spoken to us.

God's promises will preserve our lives.

You must believe that God is speaking.

Not only can God bring comfort, He can bring joy in the midst of the storm.

**4. The Lord suffered for you.**

It was God's will that He suffer for you.

We must see His suffering.

In seeing His suffering, we get an understanding of the depth of His love.

**5. The Apostles rejoiced at their suffering.**

They understood that Jesus had suffered.

They rejoiced because of their love for Jesus.

The people that cause this suffering do not know what they are doing.

There is glory that comes only through suffering.

**6. There is suffering involved with doing God's will.**

You cannot produce suffering deliberately in your life and expect to get glory.

There is a purpose to suffering.

**7. We should suffer with one another.**

**8. Suffering is a teacher.**

Suffering produces perseverance.

The more perseverance you get, the more character you will have.

As you go through the process of developing character, it will get you to a place of hope.

You won't be disappointed in suffering if you understand the benefits of it.

When you get to that point, it starts to explode, it's no longer a man thing, it's a God thing, you begin to rejoice in suffering just like the Apostles did.

Suffering teaches us obedience.

Even Jesus learned obedience through suffering.

There are many levels of obedience.

God loves us and He knows what's best for us.

## SCRIPTURE LIST

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 16:21

Job 30:16 & 27

Psalm 22:24

Job 36:15

Psalm 119:50

Hebrews 13:5

Romans 8:28

Nehemiah 8:10

Isaiah 53 (whole chapter)

Acts 5:41-42

Acts 9:13-16

Philippians 1:27-30

2 Timothy 1:8-9

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Romans 5:1-5

Hebrews 5:7-10