

“Suffering: is it worth it?”

Key Scriptures

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Cor. 4:16-17 ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

Phil. 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,

1 Pet. 2:19-21 ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

2 Cor. 1:3-5 the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Key Point: Suffering is the path to glory. We must be prepared to face afflictions.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever been caught in a boat (or a plane) in a storm? What was that experience like?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Why do people suffer? Why do Christians suffer? Is there a difference?
- In the passages listed on this page, what are the correlations between suffering and glory for a follower of Christ?
- What kind of suffering does Peter say is “illegitimate” in 1 Peter 2:19-23? Why?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Before understanding the New Testament theology of suffering, how did you view it? How would you explain why people who were walking with God also suffered?
- What is 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 teaching us? Have you ever had an experience where someone comforted you in this way?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Keep your eyes out for someone who may be going through a rough time this week. How can you reach out to comfort them?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

-
-
-