



Biblical Understanding of Suffering (Part 4)
Sunday September 25, 2005

Overview:

Understanding God's Heart in the light of His original intent
Suffering – A Present Reality
Three realms in which we experience suffering
Different reasons for suffering
Suffering according to the will of God
Why does God allow me to suffer?
What should I do when I face suffering?
The Believers Mindset Towards Persecution
Enduring hardships

Review:

Understanding God's Heart in the light of His original intent
Suffering – A Present Reality
Three realms in which we experience suffering
Different reasons for suffering

1. Suffering due to the "bondage of corruption"
2. Suffering due to one's own actions
3. Suffering due to satanic oppression
4. Suffering due to other peoples actions including persecution
5. Suffering due to divine discipline and judgment
6. Suffering due to willing sacrifice

Suffering according to the will of God

1 Peter 2:20 1 Peter 3:13-17 1 Peter 4:12-19

According to these passages we see that there are two kinds of suffering that God willingly permits His people to go through. This kind of suffering is "according to the will of God":

- Suffering for righteousness sake, for doing good.
- Suffering as a Christian, being reproached for the name of Christ.

On the other hand, there is suffering that is NOT "according to the will of God". This is suffering that God does not want you to endure. These would include:

- Suffering due to one's own wrong doing (1 Peter 4:15)
- Suffering due to certain forms of demonic oppression, e.g. sickness, failure, poverty, lack, unanswered prayer, etc. (Luke 13:10-16)

Why does God allow me to suffer?

While suffering is not the original intent neither is it the desire of God's heart for His people, God knows that in the world you and I will experience suffering. No one is exempt. Therefore He has given us sufficient information and instruction in the revealed Scriptures, so that we may know how to live victoriously when we do experience suffering. Further, knowing that no human is exempt from suffering, Christ Himself walked the same path, enduring suffering and set us an example of what manner of people we ought to be in the midst of suffering. Since God knows that no one is exempt from suffering, God in His wisdom uses it for our advantage – to help mature us and perfect us into Christlikeness.



1. Building character

Romans 5:3,4

Vs 4: (ALT) and patient endurance proven character, and proven character hope [or, confident expectation],

James 1:2-4

There are effects to be accomplished towards the building of character through adversity which can be secured in no other way.

We ask God to give us more patience.

But patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

2. Pruning to be more fruitful

John 15:2,3

To prune is to take away unnecessary things so that we can be more fruitful. One of the ways in which pruning takes place in our lives is when we go through adversity.

3. For the sake of His Kingdom

Acts 9:16 2 Timothy 2:9-12 2 Corinthians 4:8-15

Some how, in much of our Christianity of today, we have forgotten the calling to "lay down our life for the sake of the brethren". We have become self-centered and self-seeking even when it comes to the things of God. Even in ministry we do what is beneficial and convenient for ourselves, rather than doing what is beneficial for other brethren.

What should I do when I face suffering?

1. Maintain your joy

James 1:2 Matthew 5:11,12 1 Peter 4:13

Some among us may have a handicapped child and we wonder why? More important than finding the right answer is the ability to see that while their body is deformed their spirit is whole. Learn to rejoice in the Lord.

2. Consider the good that is being produced. Pray.

James 5:10-13

3. Keep your hope. Look to your heavenly reward.

2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Romans 8:18 Hebrews 11:24-26 – Moses looked for his reward from heaven

The Believers Mindset Towards Persecution

1. Understand that you will face persecution in one form or another. (2 Timothy 3:12)
2. Support those who are being persecuted. (Hebrews 13:3)
3. Take needed precaution – don't be presumptuous. You are more useful to the Kingdom of God alive on earth, rather than dead. (Matthew 10:17-23)
4. Do not be terrified – eliminate fear of being persecuted. (Philippians 1:28,29)



5. Don't be persecution minded, be diving protection minded. (Isaiah 54:17)
6. Endure to the end – be faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

Enduring hardships

2 Timothy 2:3



WE RESPECT YOUR INTERNET TIME AND EMAIL PRIVACY. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER EMAILS FROM ALL PEOPLES CHURCH, PLEASE REPLY WITH THE SUBJECT "UNSUBSCRIBE" AND YOUR EMAIL ID WILL BE DELETED FROM OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST. THANK YOU.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>