

Are You Doing God's Will Part 6 Suffering For Christ

“1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: 5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. 7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another*, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.” (1 Peter 4:1-19 KJV)

It is a challenge what Peter wrote about man in Christ: ***That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*** Suffering in the flesh is the calling of Jesus into the life of every believer. Suffering entails walking in the narrow way. Suffering entails forfeiting the pleasure in this world. Suffering entails leaving behind our emotions, our plans, our ambition and turn to God and walk in the plan that he prepared for us.

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin: Christ the king of glory He left His heavenly dwelling being at the right hand of God the Father and came down unto the earth and became poor for our sake, ***“9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9 KJV)*** He came to make us rich but He sent those who are rich empty, ***“53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.” (Luke 1:53 KJV)*** The Lord is not against riches but He is against people who use riches to the lust of the flesh. God gives riches and blessing to everyone to give relief

to us in satisfying our needs and in order to be employed in His kingdom. Christ came from heaven and became poor and suffered for us in order to relief us from our trials and troubles, and to not to pamper us with material things and spoiling us with them. Christ is the Creator but he did not spend much on himself or lavish much on his body while he was on earth. Christ came to do the will of God and He suffered and persevered in doing that.

Apostle Peter said ***arm yourselves likewise with the same mind.*** Toward what you are heading and what your eyes is focus on? The mind of worldly people focus about eating food, being merry, partying, hoping to new experiences, getting silver and gold, lot of accessories, fame, sensualities, beauties and the like. Christ when He came to earth He suffered, endured all these temptations and he overcame, ***“8 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18 KJV)*** Christ being the Creator, lowered down from heaven, suffered, tasting death on the cross, but overcame as God raised Him from the death, becoming the captain of our salvation, ***“9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2:9-10 KJV)*** Therefore as He is perfected through suffering, then He is able to help us and save us from all the temptations that we are passing through as we put our trust and confidence on Him, arming ourselves likewise with the same mind of Christ, that we no longer should live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin: When we are willingly refusing to allow our flesh to get indulge in the worldly practices and pleasure we are indirectly combating and ceasing from the life of sin. Jesus said about his second coming linking it with the event of destruction due to sin on the old world and upon Sodom and Gomorrah, ***“26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.” (Luke 17:26-29 KJV)*** Note, the Lord judged the following: ***They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, they bought, they sold, they planted, and they builded.*** The verb action that God judged are ‘eat, drank, married wives, they were in marriage, bought, sold, planted and they built. There is no clear cut sinful act as stealing, telling lies, committing murder, or adultery. But what is apparent is that they were living their lives and giving full vent to the lust of the flesh. Not denying their flesh the pleasure of food, the lust of the flesh toward the other gender in marrying what they likes and wants, doing their own will in starting new business, in selling and buying, and in planting and building what they want. They showed no restrained toward what God wanted them to do by following the dictation of their own will. They did not allow their flesh to suffer by any mean, and in such they were abound in their sins. In the same way today being so conscious to satisfy all the desire of the flesh is the more way to the sinful nature to take over the move in our lives. The more we give the way to the flesh, then the more we are abounding in sin.

For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin: The call of God today in our lives is to be away from sin and the way we do that is by refraining from pleasures as much as we

can and to deny the desire of the sinful flesh. The story of the rich man and Lazarius it speaks about the reason that the rich man was judged and was sent to hell.

“¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. ²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. ²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” (Luke 16:19-31 KJV) The reason that Abraham stated to that rich why he is in hell is what we can read in verse 25, *“²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.” (Luke 16:25 KJV)* He was sent to hell because he did not allow his body to suffer. He received the best of all the good things during his life right to his death. He denied himself no pleasure. That rich man was not judged because he did not help the poor Lazarius, but his insensitivity to live a simple life and not to heed the good example of Lazarius was the reason of his judgment. We are not saying here that we should not help the poor, but it was not the reason for that rich man to be condemn to hell.

The rich man request for Lazarius to wet his tongue was refused by Abraham, explaining to him that there is a great gulf fixed between them. Upon hearing that, he again requested that Lazarius to be sent to his house so he can tell his five brothers not to come to that place, *“²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. “ (Luke 16:28 KJV)* The rich man had left behind five brothers who had witnessed how he had lived in luxury. Certainly with what Abraham confronted him with, then he was a bad example to them and he wanted to correct them by sending Lazarus to them in telling them the truth in what place their brother was ended. But, *“²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.” (Luke 16:29 KJV)* The prophets of the Old Testament and the New Testament Apostles and saints are the very good example to us today to live away from worldliness and to live a simple life that pleases God with willingness to suffer for Him. The rich man the style of life that he was living is contradicting the word of God and the style that Moses and the prophets declared in God's Word.

Now it is clearer why we need to embrace the theme of suffering for Christ, because in such a way we will be quarantine to be quitting with sin. As well as with such mind and attitude we are becoming a good example to others in living a simple life, away from worldliness, away

from the lust of the flesh, accepting trials as ordained by God for us, persevering in all holiness and godliness, inviting others to follow our examples as we follow the example of Christ.

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. The rich man that God allowed him to have much it was not for him to indulge and get merely enjoy with the excess that God gave him. Certain time God give much but that does not mean we will spend all just to vent them all for the flesh, but to be considerate and spend wisely what is ordained for the life situation to spend and not in the measure of the excess that God gave. And in certain time God give trials and suffering, and that does not mean to grumble and be angry with God, not accepting what He gave you from hard times, struggles and challenges.

Willingly we should organize ourselves to live within the limits of the will of God. Living for the will of God is our willingness to suffer for the sake of God and bear the pain in order that His Word, His commands and His plans to come true in our lives.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: It is the right time for us now to quit the life of sin and be willing to suffer in our flesh for the sake of God and Christ our Lord. It is enough to live for sin. It is much time in the past that we had lived in sin and did the will of those who do not know God; it is time to quit the sinful life of the Gentiles who do not follow God, who walk in transgressions to the commands of God in doing the following acts:

1. **Lasciviousness:** Unbridled lust, excess, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.
2. **Lusts:** Desire, craving, or longing for what is forbidden.
3. **Excess of wine:** Drunkenness.
4. **Revellings:** Riotous procession after drinking in the street, yelling and singing.
5. **Banquetings:** Indulgence in parties and spending much in inviting others on food and drinks.
6. **Abominable idolatries:** Abominable is contrary to law and justice. Prohibited by law of God. Those who practice them are doing criminal things against God.

God is merciful on us who waited patiently for us till we are out of all these wicked things and He included us in Christ Jesus the time we gave our lives to God. Therefore we should consider His mercy and not to go back to the old life.

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Following Christ is not only that we should come out of all these wicked things as we described, but following God means to be in contradict to those whom we were doing evil before. The very same people that we were doing all what we described of evil practices, they would ultimately sees us changed and become strange to what they were seeing in us before. Coming to Christ is not only to be changed in character, attitudes or life's habit but even to be willing to be considered bad to our previous companions and friends. They might be even tempted to speak evil against us; igniting by Satan to speak bad against our new conduct and against our commitment to God.

5 **Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.** Those who speak evil against us because we left them and left the evil ways, in order to follow Christ, they will give an account of all what they do or speak against us to Christ Himself. We need to understand that Christ is seeing everything and He is watching us and what we are passing through from suffering. Those who persecute us, they will face him and His judgment against them, either in this life or in the life to come. The Lord in sending His judgment on those who trouble us the purpose of that is to relieve us, and to discipline them, so the pain that they will be inflicted with, may contribute to their repentance. That how he shows His love toward us to relieve us so we can continue to serve Him, and that is how He shows His love toward those who are against us. In His judgment on them He is giving them the opportunity to repent and escape the wrath of God, **“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** (2 Peter 3:9 KJV) Their failure of repentance will bring them to the final judgment of God, **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”** (Revelation 21:8 KJV)

5 **Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.** The quick are those who are still living and have the breath of life and can decide and have the opportunity to repent. In judging them while they are still living they will undergo a temporal judgment that may contribute to their change and conversion. The dead are those who expired and are waiting for the final judgment of God, **“²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”** (John 5:27-28 KJV) **“The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.”** (Psalm 7:8 KJV) **“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”** (Psalm 7:11 KJV) **“So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.”** (Psalm 58:11 KJV)

6 **For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.** The purpose of preaching the gospel that everyone will have the opportunity to hear the truth and will given the chance to repent and turn to God. The gospel is the good news that God will allow every man to hear His Word and His Will. Both the Old Testament and New Testament saints were and are directed toward the ways of God that they need to live and adopt to be saved.

6 **For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead.** With such statement it is clear that everyone who lived on earth the Lord had revealed His Word to him/her. The Word of God was preached to those who lived on earth. God in His mercy had given the chance to every human that He created to hear the message that He ought to know and heed.

That they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. The judgment of the flesh is the opinion of man about man, and is all about the external appearance of man (beauty, strength, education, riches, fame, genealogy, etc.). But the judgment of God is different than the judgment of man. God will not judge according to man's standard and biases. God has His Word that He will use to apply judgment on man. Those who

lived according to the standard of God's Word are alive with God even they are dead in their flesh, and those who live for the lust of the flesh to please their sinful nature they are dead even they are alive in body, and they will pass into the judgment of God in hell after their soul will depart from their body upon their death.

The events of life might bring much temptation and arguments about these points that we discuss. 7 **But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.** People may prone toward honoring the judgment of man, and devil will tempt the people more to depart and to forget the judgment according to the standard of God's Word. Therefore there will be a time the believers in Christ might pass through confusion, tempted to go lax toward God's Word standard, therefore the apostle warning directed to the church, to endure in the way of suffering, and in living away from worldliness toward the standard of God's ways of Judgment.

But the end of all things is at hand: The apostle is saying to the saints, you had suffered much and the time had come to an end, therefore tempted not to leave your position in Christ and what you were able to achieve. Christ coming is becoming nearer than before, and what he had given to us from His word is a sure guidance for us in this life: **“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:”** (2 Peter 1:19 KJV)

But the end of all things is at hand: The apostle reminding the believers to be more patient and more persevering because the end is near; it is at hand. They had waited much and suffer lot, and now the time for rewarding. The Word of God inspire us that suffering is toward the end and we had passed through most of it and we are nearer to the end of suffering more than before. Therefore we will be richly rewarded if we do not give up. Therefore, **“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.”** Hebrews 10:35 KJV)

Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. For this reason and this critical time to pass the period of temptation, they need to be **sober, and watch unto prayer.** Sober is to be of sound mind and know how to analyze events and take sound decisions. Sober is to exercise self-control. The man that Jesus delivered from the legion of demons the people found him in his right mind, **“And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”** (Mark 5:15 KJV) To be sober is the way to face the attacks of the evil one. Satan would oppose us and try to confuse us, that is why we need to keep our minds sober. That is why Paul instructed Titus that **“Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.”** (Titus 2:6 KJV)

Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. Peter recommended further to pass the period of temptation is to watch unto prayer. To watch is to be calm, discrete and able to concentrate and pick up events and meaning while you are watching. **Watch unto prayer** is to be able to pick up correct conclusions and frame sound decision that we can bring them to the Lord in prayer. **“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:6 KJV) **“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:8 KJV) **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”** (1 Peter 5:8 KJV) **“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the**

revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13 KJV) Paul advised Timothy. **“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:5 KJV)** Watchful in prayer is to be ready and prepared to take certain important decision and action that will forward you toward the mission and the purpose of God in the life of God’s church and God’s people.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. The key thing here to continue to live a life for Christ, and persevering in facing the suffering, is to have more love and as well said here a fervent charity. Fervent is to stretched out and to be without ceasing; having no limit for love in order to be able to dilute and finally blot out sins from among us. The increased of wickedness will make charity grow cold, **“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matthew 24:12 KJV)** therefore to face the work of the evil one, charity should be abound.

Jesus confronted the Pharisees that they don’t have the love of God. **“But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.” (John 4:42 KJV)** He also showed them that they are doing some of God’s commands like tithing but they are neglecting and putting aside other commands, **“But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” (Luke 11:42 KJV)** Keeping all the commands of God and laying our lives for the sake of other will express the true love, **“¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. ¹² This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:10, 12-13 KJV)** Christ abided in the Father’s love when He kept His commands, and that what enabled Him to lay down His life on the cross to save us from sin. Putting Christ as our example will teach us to abide with God’s commands and finally will lead us to lay our lives to serve Him by serving others. Christ was full of joy as He abided in God’s commands and He was enabled to pass the period of great suffering. When we do the same as Jesus abided in God’s commands we will have a joy and to the full: **“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” (John 15:11 KJV)** That kind of fervent love Christ declared it to us in Words and in deeds, and Christ continued to declared it to the whole world when He died on the cross to take away mankind sins, **“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26 KJV)**

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. The fervent love would be first manifested among the family of God, among the believers, the church community, and when it is increasing and overflowing will overcome sin and the work of devil, and will be manifested in repentance, in forgiveness and in transformation of people’s lives and would be overflowing to the world around the church. It will be manifest in ministries and services to others among the believers and extend to the non believers and into the farthest places to reach the loss.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. The believer should be hospitable and generous to guests, especially those who are moving to serve the Lord with us. We need to aid them in their service. Paul in his letter to Timothy and Titus addressed the hospitality to be

linked with the church leaders, **“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.” (1 Timothy 3:2 KJV)** **“But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate.” (Titus 1:8 KJV)** And Peter made it a must to every believer. It’s true that no one can bear fruit unless he is manifesting hospitality. Willing to give and to sacrifice is the character of Christ’s charity.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. Grudging is murmuring, a secret displeasure and debate against one another. It is a sin and it is a personality and an attitude problem that the believer in Christ should deal with it because it can lead to lack of fruit. Can be directed as displeasure toward the Lord, **“And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.” (John 7:12 KJV)** or it can directed against one another due to some privileges being overlooked, **“And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.” (Acts 6:1 KJV)** Therefore we are admonished to do everything without arguing or complaining, **“Do all things without murmurings and disputing.” (Philippians 2:14 KJV)** So in facing suffering we are still required to show charity, and to offer hospitality without grumbling.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Suffering should be accompanied by service. We should be people who are beneficial to others. Whatever we have it came from God and it is not for us alone. We need to use them for the benefit and the wellbeing of God’s church and for others to taste and experience the goodness of God. Operating with good administration in sharing and using the gift for the benefits of others; every one of us had received gift from God and we are required to develop them and to use them to serve God and to serve others, manifesting in this way the manifold of the grace of God. The church is complete with its head, Christ. Who gave us various gifts so that his grace will be completely given to us.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. To minister is to be a servant, to attend by supplying anything, that may serve another’s interests, to wait at a table, to prepare food for others, to supply food and distribute the necessities of life; to take care of the poor and the sick. To minister is to administer the office of a deacon in Christian churches and to serve as deacons. **“¹⁰ And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. ¹³ For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 timothy 3:10, 13 KJV)** **“Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel.” (Philemon 1:13 KJV)**

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: Apostle Peter divided the spiritual gifts into two kinds. The first one that what is administered through speaking: **“⁷ ... or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:” (Romans 12:7-8 KJV)** **“⁸ For to one is given by**

*the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*¹⁰ ... *to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.*²⁸ *And God hath set some in the church,... diversities of tongues.”* (1 Corinthians 12: 8, 10, 28 KJV) And the second one that what is administered by actions: *“Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: ...*⁸ ... *he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”* (Romans 12:7-8 KJV) *“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*¹⁰ *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; ...*²⁸ *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, ...”* (1 Corinthians 12: 9-10, 28 KJV) *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:11-12 KJV)

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: Suffering trials and suffering for Christ’s sake should not be a strange thing to happen into our lives. Not only trials but fiery trial, that devil will try against you, a trial that you will be tried with it. Your stand for the Lord and your service will be opposed by the power of darkness and by the principalities in this world that opposes Christ and His Kingdom. As Christ was opposed and suffered from the religious leaders at that time who oppose His mission which was affecting their position and setup, today it is expected that we suffer as He suffered when our preaching and the way we live and serve is condemning to sin and to the work of darkness.

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. Instead of being puzzled with the trials let us rejoice and be glad, and for the following reasons. We rejoice in trials because we knew that we had hit the target. We rejoice because we share the suffering of our Master and Lord, knowing that one day He will be appearing and these trials will be ended up and we will be rewarded by Him.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. Having the choice to suffer is a privilege and will have the reward of it. If people scorn us and abuse our names because we are following Him and in line with His Word then we should be happy for that. We are achieving what God wanted from us to achieve. The religious system at the time of Christ and later on the apostles had rejected Christ because they were holding fast to their worldly privileges and prestige and because they were sitting over a corruptible system that Christ and His Word and conduct exposed and condemned. Now if we follow what Christ and His Word ordained then we are led by the Holy Spirit, *for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you*, to accomplish His will and plan, that even we will be met by reproach of the people who are opposing God’s Word, we still need to be happy. *on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified*; on their part He and/or we evil spoken, but on our part He is gloried and we are living His will in accordance to His Word. On their part he was called a deceiver, *“Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.”* (Matthew 27:63 KJV) and we today are called false prophets and deceivers, *“By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report:*

as deceivers, and yet true.” (2 Corinthians 6:8 KJV) But on our part He is the way and we are speaking the truth in love.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. There is suffering of other kind and that is due to sin. Followers of Christ should not suffer because sin like stealing, cheating, telling lies, promoting corruption, immoralities, and the rest of evil doing. We need to understand that non willingness to do what Christ wants from us, because we are not willing to suffer, then that will put on us the sin of compromises, and we will be sharers with evil doers. Paul said to Timothy, *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.”* (1 Timothy 5:22 KJV) When we people do wrong and we are kept silent, then as if we are laying our hands on someone who does not deserve the office. Keeping silent and swallowing lies and doing nothing about is not the way to serve God. With such attitude we are siding wrong people and deserting Christ. Peter he said, *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.* When we don’t defend the truth we are killing it and we are murderers. When we abuse the terms that God placed His Word on then we are thieves and evil doers. When we do many things but not touching the area that need to be corrected or the sin that need to be dealt with then we are acting as a busybody. Many they kick the blessings of God coming to them by siding with the evil doers just out of fear or just because they don’t want their lives to be in turmoil because of the back fighting of evil doers who would wage war against them when they are correcting them.

Apostle Peter when he said, *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters*, He is addressing some big crimes like murder and stealing. Since the letter was addressed to the church, and there in his letter no evidence that there is among them people who do such, then must likely what he means is the following: when the church chose to avoid suffering on the hands of those who oppose the truth, and when the church is siding with them by keeping silent of their wrong doing to avoid suffering, then the church is sharing the same criminal action that the religious system, composed of the chief priests and the teachers of law inflicted on Christ.

Let it be known among us that if we will not put a clear demarcation between good and evil in our lives and ministries then we are accused with the same crimes of those criminals who put Christ to death. God will judge us for that. Jesus said to the Pharisees, *“29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.”* (Matthew 23: 29-32 KJV) When we keep silent while sin is going on, and when people who are called by God are doing evil and are indifference to the truth of God and to the law of God which is broken, then we are partakers with those who killed the prophets of God and who crucified Christ. Peter wept bitterly when he denied that he knows Christ. We ought to repent, every time we don’t allow the truth of God to be well spoken, or when sin not to be well dealt with.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. We are called to glorify God by rising up the truth. Paul said, *“10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness,*

but rather reprove them.” (Ephesians 5:10-11 KJV) Even if it causes us trouble, it is worthy to lift us the truth in such a way. We should not be ashamed what the people getting opinion or impression about us. Let us be intimidated and be ashamed when we are not doing what the Word of God tell us to do.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? Indifference to the truth is sin, as well as the indifference toward sin; both of them God judge. God will judge first His people because they knew His Word and because they had given His grace and they should show their accountability to all what they had heard, received and seen. **‘For the time is come’**, so we are constrained with time and should not allow it to be too late to respond with God’s call to do our part for Him. **‘that judgment must begin at the house of God’**, It is very fair, and we should know that knowing Christ makes us more accountable and we will sure receive His judgment if we will not keep holiness and behave indifferently like those who have not heard Christ’s gospel and God’s Word. **‘and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God’**, we will be judged first, and worse will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel. Therefore if we will be indifferent to the truth of God and compromise and escape our duty to face sin and correct evil doers then we will in their camps and will share the wrath of God that He will send to them. **“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20 KJV)** We really need to move away from those who oppose the truth.

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Apostle Peter made it clear to the church, **‘And if the righteous scarcely be saved,’** that for our salvation we need to work it out with fear and trembling. Everyone would be tested and scrutinized; if we are willing to quit compromises and to stand firm with the truth then salvation will be ours, otherwise then we will share the lot of the ungodly.

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. Let us be willing to suffer for Christ’s sake; keeping His Word causes us opposition and suffering from those who oppose the truth and delight in lies. But it is worthy the suffering, and we need to endure, because God is faithful he will neither let us down nor will forgot all the good that we had done for Him and for His people in keeping them walking in the truth.

My dear and beloved: . Suffering according to the will of God should be our goal and aim in all our Christian walk, and we keep that by committing and yielding our lives and our souls fully to Him to take us and keep us in the way He want us to go. In pain He is there to sooth us, in opposition He is suffering with us, in suffering He is our hope and inspiration to meet with Him in the day of His coming in the clouds, **“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:18 KJV)** As we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that makes me understand the way that you want me to live for you. Lord, I commit my life to you being willing to stand for the truth, willing to face sins, corruption and compromises inside and outside your church. Lord empower me with the Holy Spirit and encourage me when people*

says lot of things against me because of your Word and the truth. Lord sustain me and provide for me to continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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