

Suffering For Christ

“21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.” (1 Peter 2:21-23 KJV)

Suffering is one of the things that God allowed and ordained for us to pass through. Some people they would surprise and astonished why God allowed suffering to come into their lives. But the truth is that every human born of woman is ordained for him/her to pass through suffering.

The purpose of suffering in your life is as the following:

I. To teach you obedience: *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8 KJV)* Suffering is the hardship that God allowed for you to pass through to discipline you in order for you to learn obedience.

II. To lead you to crucify your sinful nature: Everyone should pass through the cross of Jesus to crucify his own sinful nature. The purpose of each trial of suffering is to crucify part of the human flesh. Every time you pass through suffering God is cutting some of your sinful flesh (your emotion, bad habits, over spending, over sleeping, laziness, anger, gossips, watching TV, entertainments and parties, certain types of food or certain taste, etc.) Till you are cleans from the flesh and can testify, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20 KJV)*

III. To keep you from becoming conceited: God allow suffering in your life to humble you and prevent you from being conceited. Paul said, *“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.” (2 Corinthians 12:7 KJV)* God allowed a suffering in the life of Paul to prevent him from being conceited. The same might be for you today that your suffering today is a treatment of your pride and arrogance.

IV. To enable you to live with the grace of God: Suffering will lead you and make you rely more on God's grace and His provision in your life. The Holy Spirit will minister to you through the period of suffering. Paul said about his suffering, *“8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:8-9 KJV)*

To this you were called: Sometimes you think it is strange for you to pass through suffering forgetting that God when He called you, part of this calling is your suffering for Him. *“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.” (Philippians 1:29 KJV)*

About Christ suffering as you read in *1 Peter 2:21-23*: *“21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.” (1 Peter 2:21-23 KJV)* You will set good example to others when you observe the following in your suffering:

1. Don't sin: *“Who did no sin,”* You need to control yourself and to continue to live in holiness. Sin should not rule over your life.

2. Don't speak bad: *“neither was guile found in his mouth.”* Keep your heart clean and pure toward those who harmed you and toward everyone.

3. Don't retaliate and threaten others: *“when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not.”* Even others sin against you but you need to control yourself and continue to live in holiness. You can avoid them and move away from their territory but never think or try to harm them or revenge of the harm that they inflicted on you. You must also know that your retaliation will bring you more pain and more suffering.

4. Entrust yourself to God who judges justly: *“but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”* Surrender your full will to God and do not allow your flesh to manipulate this important period in your life.

For suffering as compared to Christ suffering on the cross you will pass through three stages:

A. The stage before the cross: The time that you would come to know that you are going to face certain suffering or trial in life. At this stage do not try to avoid or complain or retaliate to be deviated from passing through the cross of Jesus. Some they suffer at this stage because they will do their best to avoid suffering and such measures they will do will add later on to their suffering. Hard work or a challenge of trial is God ordain for you to pass through in order that His will and purpose in your life will be achieved. And you must know that the more you avoid passing through it the more you are suffering. Therefore do it willingly and without force so that you will suffer less. About Christ, *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:8 KJV)* Christ as He came to know about God's will for Him to pass through the cross, no one forced Him, but willingly He humbled Himself *and became obedient unto death-- even the death of the cross*. In whatever trial that God is leading you to pass through pray and tell God; *“Lord I am willing but please I need you to help me.”* God will not allow you to pass through it alone, but The Holy Spirit shall be with you and will bring you in and will take you out of it, and fulfilling what God had ordained for you.

B. The stage of the cross: This is the time that you find yourself in the mid of the problem and you are on the cross of suffering and you cannot go out of it. What you need to do at this stage is to follow the above four steps: ***1- Don't sin. 2- Don't speak bad. 3- Don't retaliate and threat others. 4- Entrust yourself to God who judges justly.*** Your obedience to the above instructions will secure to you a fruitful and safe outcome of whatever trials that you are passing through.

C. The stage after the cross: This is the stage after you pass through the hard and painful trial. In this stage you ought to glorify God and magnify Him and thank Him to the painful cross that he allowed you to pass through to cleanse you and makes you a better person. Do not be like other people who continue to act negatively and continue to grumble and complain after passing the stage of the cross. Instead be able and willing to use the good things of the previous trial that you passed through and the present trial that you are in and use them to glorify God and to testify about His goodness to others.

“13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” (1 Peter 2:13-14 KJV) The authorities in the world that God had placed around us and over us they might be the source for our suffering by their injustice rules and by their abuses. But how the way out? It mentioned in verse 14 about these authorities the following: **“to commend those who do right.”** So when you do still right (**1- Don't sin. 2- Cleanse your heart and don't speak bad. 3- Don't retaliate and threaten others. 4- Entrust yourself to God who judges justly.**) The same people who are bad they will commend you. Therefore you remember while you are in the mid of the suffering and hanged on the cross of the trial then in doing good you receive the commendation from those who are the source of your suffering. This is amazing and this is the truth. **“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” (1 Peter 3:15 KJV)** The foolish men are the evil people who are bringing suffering into your life. And how you will face them? **By doing good** and in this way **you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.**

“As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:16 KJV) You may say, *'I am free in Christ,'* but freedom in Christ does not give you the freedom to sin or to abuse the grace of God and do evil.

Peter was writing to the church in Rome who was persecuted and he told them **“17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” (1 Peter 2:17 KJV)** The brethren of the church in Rome were persecuted by the king and Peter still reminded them to honour and respects the king because in doing so they can silence the attack of devil and change the attitude of those who persecuted, them for their benefit.

“18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.” (1 Peter 2:18-19 KJV) Even in facing injustice or abuse then you can ameliorate that by still continuing doing the good and God will reward you for such kind of action and attitude.

“20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.” (1 Peter 2:20) When you do wrong you will receive the penalty that is due for that. But when you receive the same hurt while you did and are doing good that is commendable before God. In this way you are following and abiding with the same steps of Jesus and you will be rewarded.

My dear and Beloved: The above stages are clear outline for you to understand God's will and what he had ordained for you to face. Go through life and comply to His will and be ready to testify about His goodness and what the great things that He had done for you in life as you 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 dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to abide with your word in doing your will and whatever you had planned for me. Lord I am willing to pass through the road that you ordained for me to pass through. Lord help me to endure the suffering that I am about to pass through, knowing that it is your will for me in Christ Jesus. Lord fills me with your Holy Spirit and let your grace sufficient for me to endure all of that, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*