

## Doctrine of Suffering

1. Suffering is physical or mental pain. Suffering might manifest itself in a loss of health, wealth, friends, family or guilt reaction, psychosis, etc. Suffering is temporary or permanent loss of happiness or mental tranquility.

1.1 There are two general reasons for suffering:

1.1.1 to get an unbeliever to believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved, and

1.1.2 to get a believer to move to the next level of spiritual maturity.

1.1.3 Both the unbeliever and the believer suffer in time but only the unbeliever suffers in eternity.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Heb 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

1.1.4 Judgment for discipline in the case of the believer can be changed to judgment for blessing by simply following the protocol plan of God.

1.2 The believer needs only to name his or her sin back to God and discipline for suffering is turned into discipline for blessing.

1Co 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

1Co 11:32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Believers can receive suffering for either discipline or suffering for blessing; we often refer to the former as deserved suffering and the latter as undeserved suffering; although certainly from God's divine viewpoint, both are deserved.

3. Discipline-type suffering is designed to get believers, to either rebound or get hot for the Word, i.e., to name a sin or give up a false concept.

Hos 8:7 "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.

Hos 8:8 Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like a worthless thing.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

4. Let's look at ten reasons a believer suffers:

4.1 to glorify God in the Angelic Conflict - Book of Job,

4.2 to learn self-discipline,

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

4.3 to demonstrate the sufficiency of God and to control certain types of personalities,

2Co 12:7 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.

4.4 to help us empathize with others who are suffering,

2Co 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

2Co 1:4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

4.5 to learn the value of doctrine,

Psa 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Psa 119:68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.

Psa 119:69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.

Psa 119:70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.

Psa 119:71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Psa 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

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