

Bible Study ULaity Missionary Baptist Church

August 14, 2021

Subject: Christian Suffering

I. Why is Suffering a Necessary Part of Christian Life.

A. Our suffering helps us to identify with the suffering of Jesus.

Romans 8:16-17

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.

Philippians 3:8-10

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

B. Our suffering shows Satan that we love God for who He is and not for what we can get from God.

Job 2:3-7

³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

⁴ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

⁵ But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life."

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

C. Our suffering can be used to demonstrate the power of God.

John 11:1-4

¹ Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

² It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

³ Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

⁴ When Jesus heard *that*, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

D. Our suffering strengthens our endurance to continue to live by faith.

Hebrews 10:36

³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

Psalms 30:5

⁵ For His anger *is but for* a moment, His favor *is for* life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy *comes* in the morning.

Psalms 94:12-13

¹² Blessed *is* the man whom You instruct, O LORD, And teach out of Your law,

¹³ That You may give him rest from the days of adversity, Until the pit is dug for the wicked.

1 Peter 5:10

¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

E. Our suffering teaches us to depend on God.

John 15:1-5

¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

F. Our suffering causes Christian growth.

Psalms 66:10-12

¹⁰ For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.

¹¹ You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.

¹² You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich *fulfillment*.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

G. Our suffering is not acknowledged by God if it is the result of doing wrong.

1 Peter 2:20

²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.

1 Peter 3:17

¹⁷ For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 4:15

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

H. Our suffering increases the ministry of Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

⁶ Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

⁷ And our hope for you *is* steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also *you will partake* of the consolation.

II. Some Key Spiritual Teachings on Suffering

A. Christian suffering causes us to become more committed to God and doing good.

1 Peter 4:18-19

¹⁸ Now *"If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

B. All things that happen in God's will, good or bad, always produce good things for Christians.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

C. The testing of our faith by trials and tribulations helps produce a complete Christian life.

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

D. Jesus tells us that He is our rest and peace during our suffering.

Matthew 11:28-29

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."