

Purpose to Suffer for God

- What is Suffering?

Suffering - to be in pain or distress

- to be injured or endure trials

Who are some people who suffered in the Bible?

-Jesus Christ

-Job

-Jonah

-Joseph

- We will all suffer if we live for God

2 Ti 3:12 - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

I. What will happen if we suffer for Christ?

1. We are blessed for suffering for Righteousness' Sake

Blessed – to give favor, or some form of well-being

1 Pet 3:14 - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, [you are] blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed [are] those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2. We will build character

Rom 5:3-5 -And not only [that], but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

-Perseverance - steadfastness, constancy, endurance

-Character - approved, tried, a proof of something

-Hope - joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation

3. We are drawn closer to God

James 1:2-3 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

James 5:13 - Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

II. Why suffer for God?

1. To imitate Christ

1Pe 2:21 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

Phil 1:29 - For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

2. To be living with a knowledge of eternity

1Pe 2:19 For this [is] commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

Matt 5:10 - Blessed [are] those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Phil 3:8, 14 - 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..... I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

3. To bring glory to God

1Pe 4:15-16 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

glorify - to magnify, to give renown, to honor

4. To help us bless others who are suffering

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

III. Suffering for Ourselves

1. Is not worth anything with God

1Pet 2:20 - 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 Pet 3:17 - For [it is] better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

2. Is selfish, unlike Christ who was selfless

1 Pet 2:21 - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps

Phil 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross.

3. Is missing your opportunity to live for God

-Jonah chose to live for himself and it gained him nothing, even though he still suffered

- Joseph chose to live for God and suffered and he was a blessing, able to glorify God

- Job chose to live for God, and when he went through suffering, he was able to glorify God

IV. Suffering for God

1. It is commendable

1 Pet 2:18-20 - Servants, [be] submissive to [your] masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this [is] commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For this [is] commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 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 Pet 3:14 - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, [you are] blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

2. It has eternal rewards which far outweigh earthly rewards

2 Cor 4:16-18 - Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward [man] is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen [are] temporary, but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.

Matthew 5:10 - Blessed [are] those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.