

**THE
PROBLEM OF
SUFFERING...**

Developing a Biblical Theology of Suffering!

Lessons on Suffering...

from those who have “been there!”

- Job
- Joseph
- David
- Jeremiah
- Paul
- The Prodigal Son
- The Prodigal Son's Father
- Jesus

Biblical People Who Questioned Suffering...

- Gideon, Judges 6:13
- Job, Job 19:6-7
- Asaph, Psalm 73:12-14
- Solomon, Ecclesiastes 8:15
- Jeremiah, Jeremiah 12:1
- Habakkuk, Habakkuk 1:2-4

WHAT SUFFERING DOES NOT (NECESSARILY) MEAN...

- You have sinned!
- God is angry with you!
- God does not love you!
- God has lost control of the world and cannot help you.

WHAT SUFFERING DOES NOT (NECESSARILY) MEAN...

- God does not care!
- You might as well give up!
- Your suffering will last forever!
- You just don't have enough faith to claim your deliverance!

Sources of Suffering...

- Satan!
- Natural consequences of living in a fallen, sin-cursed world
- Actions of other people
 - ✓ Persecution
 - ✓ Sins
 - ✓ Accidents/mistakes/negligence

Sources of Suffering...

- Our own actions...
 - ✓ Natural consequences of sin
 - ✓ Accidents/mistakes/negligence
 - ✓ Deliberate self-inflicted harm
- God
 - ✓ Chastening for sin
 - ✓ Discipline/Child-Training

Biblical Principles Concerning Suffering

1. God is sovereign...He is in control!
2. God is good and His will is good.
3. Any suffering we face in this life is allowed by God to accomplish a good purpose.

Biblical Principles Concerning Suffering

4. You may not ever know (in this life) the purpose God had for your suffering.
5. Suffering is a common part of life!
6. Suffering is especially a common part of a Christian's life.

Biblical Principles Concerning Suffering

7. Some suffering is necessary!
8. Any suffering we face in this life will be far less than we deserve.
9. Any suffering we face in this life will be far less than Jesus bore for us!

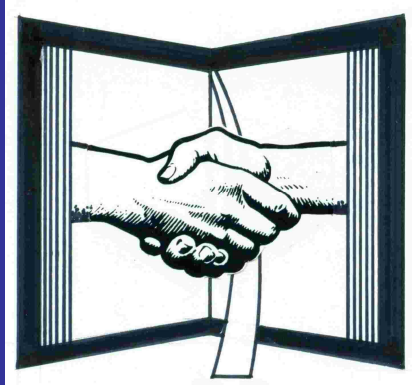
Biblical Principles Concerning Suffering

10. Any suffering we face in this life will not compare to the glory God will give us in heaven.

11. God will never allow you to be tempted (by the suffering) beyond what you are able.

Biblical Principles Concerning Suffering

12. God's grace is sufficient for you in whatever you may be suffering.



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