

Thoughts On Suffering

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1. The sovereign God appointed Jesus to suffer

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Act 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

Act 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

Mar 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mar 8:32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

Mar 8:33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

Mar 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Luk 9:22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Luk 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luk 24:26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Luk 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved [it was needful for] Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

Act 3:18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

2. Details of Jesus' suffering

Mat 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

Mat 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Mat 27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

Mar 14:65 And some began to **spit on him**, and to cover his face, and to **buffet him**, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did **strike him with the palms of their hands**.

Isa 50:6 I gave my **back to the smiters**, and my **cheeks to them that plucked off the hair**: I hid not my face from **shame and spitting**.

Isa 52:14 As many were astonished at thee; his **visage was so marred more than any man**, and his form more than the sons of men:

Mat 27:26 ...and when he had **scourged Jesus**, he delivered him to be **crucified**.

3. Jesus' suffering went beyond physical pain

Psa 22:1 My God, my God, **why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?**

Psa 22:2 O my God, **I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not**; and in the night season, and am not silent.

Psa 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Psa 22:4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

Psa 22:5 **They cried unto thee, and were delivered**: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

Psa 22:6 But **I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people**.

Isa 53:3 He is **despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief**: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Psa 69:19 Thou hast known my **reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour**: mine adversaries are all before thee.

Psa 69:20 **Reproach hath broken my heart**; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

Psa 69:21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psa 22:11 **Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help**.

Psa 22:12 Many **bulls have compassed me**: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.

Psa 22:13 They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

Psa 22:16 For **dogs have compassed me**: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Psa 22:19 **But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me**.

4. The sovereign God appointed Job to suffer

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job...?

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Job 38:2 **Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?**

Job 38:3 **Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.**

Job 38:4 **Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?** declare, if thou hast understanding.

Job 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Job 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

Job 40:1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said,

Job 40:2 **Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.**

Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

Job 40:4 **Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.**

Job 40:5 **Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.**

Job 40:6 Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Job 40:7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

Job 40:8 **Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?**

Job 40:9 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?

Job 40:10 Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty.

Job 40:11 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him.

Job 40:12 Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.

Job 40:13 Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret.

Job 40:14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.

Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

Job 42:3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Job 42:4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

5. The sovereign God appointed Paul to suffer

Act 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

2Co 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

2Co 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

2Co 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2Co 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

2Co 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

2Co 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

1Th 3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Php 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

6. The sovereign God appointed us to suffer

1Pe 2:20 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.

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1Pe 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

1Pe 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1Pe 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Heb 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

1Pe 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

1Pe 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1Pe 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

1Pe 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

1Pe 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

1Pe 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

1Pe 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1Th 3:3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

1Th 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1Pe 5:11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7. The benefits of suffering

A. Suffering increases our faith—our joy—our contentment

1Pe 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, **if need be**, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1Pe 1:7 That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, **ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**:

Jas 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations**;

Jas 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, **wanting nothing**.

B. The experience of suffering teaches submission to God—dependence on God

Heb 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

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

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.

2Co 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

2Co 12:9 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.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

C. Suffering helps us to help others

Heb 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, **he is able to succour them that are tempted**.

2Co 1:6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

D. Suffering is the entrance into the kingdom of heaven that is at hand

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must **through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God**.

Mat 5:10 **Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**.

E. Suffering gives you assurance that you are a child of God

2Ti 3:12 Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution**.

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. **If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...**

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