

The Believer's Realistic View of Suffering

Romans 8:18-28

We need to know how to get through trials successfully. The victorious Christian life is not exempt from trial.

Two reasons Christians are unprepared for trials

- Over protective parents
- False teachers preaching a Prosperity Gospel

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father

but from the world.

1 John 2:15-16

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:17

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Timothy 3:12-13

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the

kingdom of God,” they said.

Acts 14:22

A realistic view of suffering

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18

Paul's persistent sufferings

- Religious persecution

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

2 Corinthians 11:23

Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,

2 Corinthians 11:24-25

I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

2 Corinthians 11:26

*I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. **2 Corinthians 11:27-28***

Paul's persistent sufferings

- Religious persecution
- Physical handicap
- Disappointments with people

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.”

Acts 18:9-10

Gain a realistic view of suffering.

**What are we to do
when the trials come?**

**The primary requirement
is to be patient.**

A realistic view of suffering

*The creation waits in eager
expectation for the sons of God to
be revealed. **Romans 8:19***

*To Adam he said, “Because you
listened to your wife and ate from
the tree about which I commanded
you, ‘You must not eat of it,’*

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

Genesis 3:17

It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” **Genesis 3:18-19**

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **Romans 8:22**

that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. **Romans 8:23**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Revelation 21:1

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

Isaiah 35:1-2

*You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. **Isaiah 55:12***

Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an

everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed.” **Isaiah 55:13**

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. **Isaiah 11:6**

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. **Isaiah 11:7-8**

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. **Isaiah 11:9**

The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons

of God coming into their own.

Romans 8:19

How are we to wait patiently?

We are to wait and groan inwardly.

A realistic view of suffering

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exodus 14:14

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

Exodus 14:15-16

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:23

Resources God has provided to enable us to wait patiently

1. The hope of heaven

“He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.”

For in this hope we were saved.

*But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. **Romans 8:24-25***

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being

renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

2. The intercession of the Holy Spirit in prayer

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we

ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **Romans 8:26 (NKJV)**

3. The assurance of personal growth in suffering

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

“In all things God works for the good of those who love Him.”