

Bible Verses Related to Suffering

God Will Work All Things to our Good

“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.” (Romans 8:28)

God is Sovereign Over All Things – Including Suffering, Death, Calamity, Darkness, Killing and Wounding

“So the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the LORD?’” (Exodus 4:11)

“If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?” (Amos 3:6)

*“I form the light and create darkness,
I make peace and create calamity;
I, the LORD, do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7)*

*“Now see that I, even I, am He,
And there is no God besides Me;
I kill and I make alive,
I wound and I heal;
Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.” (Deuteronomy 22:39)*

Christians are to Expect Suffering, Trials, Tribulations, Cross-bearing, and Death

“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.” (Job 14:1)

“... it is appointed for men to die once” (Hebrews 9:27)

“And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:27)

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.’” (Matthew 16:24)

“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)

“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.” (John 16:33)

“But may the God of all grace, who called to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:10)

[We are repeatedly forewarned that anyone who “desires” to follow Jesus will face a life of self-denial and suffering]

A Christian can have the Intellectual Suffering of a “Broken Spirit”

*“A merry heart does good, like medicine,
But a broken spirit dries the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22)*

*“The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness,
But who can bear a broken spirit.” (Proverbs 18:14)*

“My spirit is broken” (Job, from Job 17:1)

Disciplinary Suffering at the Hand of our Loving Father is a Sign of Sonship

“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as sons:

*‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;
For whom the LORD loves He chastens
And scourges every son whom He receives.’*

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which you all have become

partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:5-11)

Afflictions lead to Character Development and Greater Assurance of Salvation

“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.” (Romans 5:3-5)

“My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 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, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:6-9)

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.” (Romans 8:16-17)

“It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes.” (Psalm 119:71)

Our Lord and Savior Suffered Greatly

“He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3)

*“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”
(Hebrews 2:10)*

Partaking of our Savior’s Suffering

“For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Philippians 1:29)

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 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 and be found in Him ... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:7-11)

“Beloved do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though something strange happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 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.” (1 Peter 4:12-16)

*“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”
(2 Corinthians 4:8-10)*

“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Timothy 1:8)

“As it is written:

*‘For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’” (Romans 8:36)*

You will be Hated by All for Jesus’s Sake

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you ...” (John 15:18-20)

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.” (John 16:1-2)

“... the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (John 17:14)

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:11-12)

[We see the truth of this “hate” in the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ, the manifold sufferings of the Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 11:22-29) and the other Apostles, the Christian martyrs throughout history, and the record numbers of Christians being martyred throughout the world today]

Our Exceedingly Great Rewards

*“Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)*

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:10)*

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18)

“... 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 that are seen, but at the things which are not seen. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

*“If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him” (2 Timothy 2:12)*

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.” (Romans 8:16-17)

God is and will be our Constant Companion, Friend, Counselor and Savior in All that We Go Through

*“Nevertheless I am continually with You;
You hold me by my right hand.
You will guide me with Your counsel,
And afterward will receive me to glory.” (Psalm 73:23-24)*

*“In all their affliction He was afflicted,
And the Angel of His Presence saved them;
In His love and in His pity He redeemed them;
And He bore them and carried them
All the days of old.” (Isaiah 63:9)*

“... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)
