

## Suffering With Jesus Rom 8:16-25

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 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. 18 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. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. NKJV

Suffer! I thought that Christians did not suffer. I thought that God wants us healthy and wealthy and to never have any more problems. When some might present that message but it is foreign to the Scriptures. As a matter of fact we see in this passage that suffering demonstrates that we are the children of God and heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus.

- I. Shall we be partakers of everything else concerning Christ and not of His sufferings
  - A. Buried with him in baptism
  - B. Raised again with Him
  - C. Seated with Him in heavenly places
  - D. We are in Him
    - 1. He is the Head and we are the body
    - 2. Therefore we are sharers in the things that pertain to Him.
    - 3. Therefore the sufferings applies to us as well.
- II. Look at the Lord Himself
  - 1. A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief
  - 2. We read of Him weeping but never laughing
  - 3. His soul was troubled
  - 4. He was despised
  - 5. He was rejected of men
  - 6. He was buffeted
  - 7. He was hated
  - 8. He was persecuted
  - 9. No one ever suffered as the Son of God
  - 10. Isaiah wrote “a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief . . . his visage was so marred more than any man”
  - 11. He is the key to understanding this passage
- B. The reason He suffered

1. He suffered because He was the Son of God.
2. John 5:43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.
3. Joh 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?
4. He suffered because He was the Son of God.
5. Joh 7:7 "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.
6. This world hates Jesus because of who He is and because of who is the god of this age, the prince and the power of the air.
7. That is why John says He came to His own and His own received Him not.
8. That is why they cried out crucify Him and today is no different.
9. Joh 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
10. Christ is the light of the world and He has exposed the hidden things of darkness, and the darkness hated Him.

III. Therefore what is the conclusion that Jesus drew from that.

- A. John 15:18 ¶ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 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; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.
- B. John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
- C. You cannot belong to Jesus and not be treated the same way that He was.

IV. Look at the early church

1. In Acts 4 the persecution begins with the arrest of the apostles.
2. They had healed the man at the gate called beautiful and then proclaimed Jesus to the people.
3. Later on in chapter 8 they were scattered everywhere because of persecution.
- B. Notice the persecution of Saul, later called Paul and how Jesus confronts him.
  1. Acts 9:1 ¶ Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"
  2. Why are you persecuting Me? Jesus says.

- C. In Acts 12 Herod put to death James the brother of Jesus and would have done the same to Peter if God had not intervened.
- D. Acts 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
- V. The Epistles are filled with mention of the persecution that the believers are undergoing for Jesus.
  - A. 2 Cor 3:1 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. 6 Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. 7 ¶ And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.
  - B. 2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 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.
  - C. 2 Cor 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? —I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? 30 If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.
  - D. Php1:12 ¶ But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;
  - E. Php 1:28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 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,
  - F. Php 2:17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and

- service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
- G. Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
  - H. 2 Thess1:4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 ¶ which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;
  - I. 2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 8 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,
  - J. James 1:2-3, 12 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. . . .12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
  - K. 1 Peter 1:6 ¶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 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,
  - L. 1 Peter 4:12 ¶ Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 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. 14 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.

What should we say about all this?

The Sufferings that we undergo will first of all bring us to a relationship with Jesus that we could have never known without them.

The sufferings identify us with Jesus.

The sufferings show us that we are an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. It is a part of our preparation for the glory that is awaiting us.

The Scriptures say that Jesus was made perfect through sufferings. Heb 2:10 & 5:8 "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things that He suffered."

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

The apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh for which God said His grace was sufficient.

The Psalmist said 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.