

# *Perfect Through Sufferings*

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Heb 2:9-10 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 5:8-9 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

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

Suffer — To feel or bear what is painful, disagreeable or distressing, either to the body or mind; to undergo.

I. Without suffering we cannot be perfect.

Perfect means: “Finished; complete; consummate; having all that is requisite to its nature and kind; as a perfect statue; a perfect likeness; a perfect work; a perfect system.”

- A. It is so absurd and wicked to protest against “the perfecting of the saints.”
- B. If there is anything that everyone will immediately agree with it when someone says, “Well, nobody is perfect.”
- C. You can’t help but notice that no one settles for that in any matter of life except when it comes to man’s character and behavior before God.
- D. Perfection means complete; finished; having all that is supposed to have and being all it is supposed to be.
- E. When it comes to food it is not acceptable if it is half-cooked, cold when it is supposed to be hot, or hot when it is supposed to be cold.
  - 1. It is not acceptable if it has stuff in it that is not supposed to be there, or if it is missing stuff that is supposed to be in there.
- F. If we go to buy a new car and all they have are cars that are missing parts, or have things broken, or that will not start sometimes, that is not acceptable to us.
- G. We expect perfection in everything and everyone else in life, but we stand bold-faced before God and tell Him that He must accept us as we are – incomplete, half-baked, and lacking in everything that He has commanded us concerning righteousness and holiness and love and mercy and truth.
- H. We believe we deserve perfection from others and from everything we spend our money for, while believing that God does not deserve perfection from us and is not able to accomplish it in us, even after the great price He paid for us.
- I. The answer to all this is that suffering is what it takes to accomplish perfection in our lives and as long as suffering is avoided or prevented we are never complete.
- J. We put our food to the fire to make it acceptable; we put everything we own or use to the fire or the grinder before it is made into something acceptable for our use.

1. All the tools, the instruments, the food, the clothing, the shelters are made of materials that had to be thrashed, ground, beaten, and put to the fire.

II. Jesus suffered so that He would be a faithful and a merciful high priest.

1. Not that He lacked the ability to be such without the suffering.
2. But it was for our sake; WE now know that He suffered also.
- B. Without suffering we can NOT be whole, mature, or complete.
  1. Our character is lacking much that we cannot obtain in any other way.
- C. It is the only way of correcting what is wrong with us since sin has blinded our minds, deceived our hearts, and doomed our soul.
- D. Jesus suffered willingly, just like He died willingly, so that He could be a high priest that is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.
  1. He was tempted (tried) in all points as we are, yet without sin.
- E. Because Jesus suffered all things as we have, and yet without sin, He is fully qualified to be the judge of all.
- F. Jesus did not suffer in order to accomplish in himself what suffering accomplishes in us.

III. Suffering rids us of foolishness.

- A. Until suffering the heart is full of foolishness.
  1. Lack of understanding
  2. Shallow reasoning
  3. Insensitive of others
  4. Often offensive to others with their unbridled tongue and ignorance
  5. No soberness in anything
- B. No one is full of foolishness after he has really suffered.
  1. The rod of our parents rids us of foolishness when we are a child, and the ROD that the Lord uses on us later is suffering.
  2. The rod also represents punishment. Punishment is designed to bring suffering, because suffering will produce results.
- C. After suffering understanding is there in some measure.
- D. The mind is made sober.
- E. Lightness will be a thing of the past once you have done some suffering.
- F. You are much more sensitive toward other people.
- G. Your tongue has some measure of control now, instead of uttering all your mind, and being known by your multitude of words. (Proverbs 29:11; Ecclesiastes 5:3)

IV. By suffering the heart is made better.

**Eccl 7:3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.**

- A. A person who has suffered is more inclined to have mercy and compassion on others who are suffering.
- B. A person who has suffered enough will be far less selfish and much more compassionate and merciful.
- C. Suffering will reveal the heart, also.
  1. When the righteous suffer they are made sweeter and more loving toward God and others.
  2. When the hardened sinner suffers he is made more hateful and bitter toward others and toward God.

- D. If suffering has accomplished its designed purpose the person will be drawn closer to God, and more dependent on Him.
- V. Anything good in life is preceded by suffering.
- A. Before you can experience the joy of a newborn child and that new life a mother has to suffer to bring him into the world.
  - B. There is a lot of suffering involved in the rearing and training of a child before he grow up into maturity.
  - C. A good soldier is trained through suffering.
    1. Suffering hardship.
    2. Suffering defeat.
  - D. A good marriage is made through suffering.
    1. Love grows out of suffering together.
- VI. Most things learned in life are learned through suffering.
- A. We learn to be careful with fire, etc. by suffering.
  - B. We learn to get along with others by suffering.
  - C. We learn to manage money by suffering financially.
- VII. Different kinds of suffering.
- A. Physical suffering. (sickness; injury; physical defects)
  - B. Mental suffering. (distress; burdens)
  - C. Heart suffering. (Loss of loved ones; injustice; disappointment)
  - D. Cares of the world suffering. (Responsibility; burdens; lack of time)
- VIII. We all want to spare others from suffering, but in so doing we do them great evil.
- A. A child raised under protection and kept from suffering will always turn out being a burden to others and not a blessing.
    1. He will be completely selfish.
    2. He will have no concern for others or their suffering.
  - B. Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble...
    1. If we spare them from trouble they will simply get it later from somewhere else.
    2. Experiencing suffering early teaches a child how to avoid a lot of it later on in his life.
    3. If he is too protected while he is young he will be stumbling into messes all his life.
- IX. Suffering that God permits is God's working in our life.
- A. There is a design in it all for your good and God's glory.
  - B. It is evidence that God loves you and wants the best for you.
  - C. God will never SUFFER you to be tempted above what you are able to bear.

1 Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

- D. If we have a Savior that suffered to be made perfect and complete for us, then we should not balk at the suffering He allows in our lives to make us like himself.

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

