

**“GOD IS GOOD; HIS WORKING FOR OUR GOOD IN SUFFERING” (Psalm 119:65-72)*****\*Psalm 119:68, Exodus 34:6, 1Peter 4:19***

**“God is kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of goodwill toward us. He has only the best in mind for us. It is by the foolishness of our own rebellion that we do not receive the benefits of that goodness.” - A.W. Tozer**

Psalm 119:65-72 \_\_\_\_\_ times it opens the verses with the word \_\_\_\_\_.

**How is God Good to His Children?****I. GOD SHOWS HIS GOODNESS BY ALLOWING US TO SUFFER**

**Suffering:** \_\_\_\_\_ what we don't want and \_\_\_\_\_ what we don't have.

**A. What is the good that come from suffering? Psalm 119:71**

Can you say...It is good for me that I \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 119:67,71)

**1. We learn truth that sets us free in suffering**

Worry -----Isaiah 26:3, Phil. 4:6, 7, Matt. 6:26-34, 11:28-30,  
 Disrespectful children ----- Proverbs  
 Depression-----Romans 8, Hebrew 13:5,6, Ephesians 1, John 17, Phil Ch. 2& 4, Psalms  
 Oppression ----- Psalm 25, 27, 37, 55 Romans 8:5-8, John 15:19  
 Distracted ----- Proverbs 3:5,6, Proverbs 31, 2Tim. 2:15, Romans 12  
 Resentment-----Ephesians 4:22-27, 32, Col. 3:13-16, Phil. 2:1-3, 4:8, Romans 12:18-21, James 2:13

**2. Sometimes suffering can be a stumbling block to unbelievers.****3. Suffering destroys the illusion of self-sufficiency and drives us to dependence on God.**

\*Trusting God for the grace to endure adversity is as much an act of faith as trusting him for deliverance from it. God doesn't always answer our prayers as we'd like him to.

\*My \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient for you, for my \_\_\_\_\_ is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

**4. Paul presented himself as a minister of God in 2 Corinthians 6:4-8, 2Cor 1:3-6**

**5. We can submit to God knowing His Sovereign hand is over all other authorities.**

**Principle to remember: Because God is good, He is worthy of our submission to His dealings with us even in suffering. We may or may not be able to see a purpose behind our trials, but God can teach us how to walk by faith and reckon ourselves to be dead to sin.**

\*Submission involves actively placing yourself \_\_\_\_\_ some authority.

**Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:18 ; 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1 ;James 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:22**

- **No trial reaches us except by His explicit decree and specific permission**

## **II. CHRISTIANS ARE MATURED BY SUFFERING**

**A. God's good is that we should be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Anything that makes us like Jesus is good.( Romans 8:28,29)**

**B. Suffering gives opportunity for us to appropriate what we are in Him and for His life to be made manifest in us. (Romans 12:2, Phil 3:21,Philippians 3:10, 2Corinthians 4:11-12 )**

**C. By cooperating with the Lord we let our sufferings produce endurance, Christ like character and see His working for us (Ephesians 1:11)**

- **Anyone who has been saved for awhile can attest-God will use anything and everything. What is the Lord using in your life?**

**"Because God is forcing him on or up to a higher level; putting him into situations where he will have to be very much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than he ever dreamed of being before. It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the tremendous thing He means to make of us." - CS Lewis**

## **III. CHRISTIANS ARE BROUGHT TO GLORY THROUGH SUFFERING**

**\*Bring me out, OR, build me up!**

**A. God allows suffering as a way of approving our faith.**

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

#### IV. YOU WOULD NOT SEE YOUR NEED FOR GOD'S STRENGTH EXCEPT THROUGH SUFFERING

\*Phil 4:13 I can do \_\_\_\_\_, through Christ who strengthens me.

##### A. Rely on His power to work in us to achieve His righteous ends.

\*2 Corinthians 4:16-18 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is \_\_\_\_\_ for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

- We must let the troubles and difficulties work on the outside and choose to draw on the strength that our life is hid with Christ in God

God who works all in all .....1 Corinthians 12:4-7

God who works in you both to will and to do.....Philippians 2:13-14

His working which works in me mightily.....Colossians 1:27-29

The power that works in us.....Ephesians 3:20

#### V. SUFFERING BELIEVERS TRUSTING THE LORD ARE A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF CHRIST'S LOVE

"Whether the suffering is for or with Christ may be determined not so much by its nature and severity as by the quality of one's spirit in which it is faced. For example, to live sweetly with a brute of a man, or a contentious faithless woman, or an ungrateful, contemptuous, wayward son or daughter, or to live self-sacrificially with a helpless, hopeless one for years or for a lifetime, may develop martyr strength and a deep dimension of love as truly as severe persecution for Christ's sake. All suffering is to drive one to the Lord. It is intended to work a fuller submission, a more utter devotion, an increasing patience, and a greater beauty of spirit, a more selfless love toward both God and man." - Paul Billheimer

##### A. How does one learn to truly agape love apart from suffering?

"Love: sovereign preference of my person for another person, embracing everyone and everything in that preference." - Oswald Sanders

\*1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Matthew 5:44, 1 Peter 2:20-23

#### VI. SUFFERING CAN BENEFIT US IS BY CHASTISEMENT WHEN WE BEGIN TO STRAY INTO SIN

\*Psalm 86:5, Hebrews 12:5-6 reminds us that those whom the Lord loves, he chastens.

\*Proverbs 15:5, Proverbs 29:17, Hebrews 12:9-14....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 12:11)

## VII. WE ERR IN JUDGING GOD BY OUR STANDARDS

“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2Thessalonians 1:11-12)

*“If I had not felt certain that every additional trial was ordered by infinite love and mercy, I could not have survived my accumulated sufferings.” - Adoniram Judson*

“...choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; **for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.**” (Hebrews 11:25-27)

“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God...” (1 Peter 4:1-2)

“...that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.” (1 Thessalonians 3:3-4) Phil 1:29, Acts 9:16,14:22

“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)

“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. (Isaiah 53:4-7)

Other verses about His goodness: Psalm 23:6, 27:13, 33:5,34:8, 52:1,9, Nahum 1:7, Jeremiah 9:24  
Our response to His goodness: Isaiah 63:7, Psalms 104:28, 106:1,107:8, 145:7, Lam 3:25, 1Thess.5:18  
Goodness a fruit of the spirit: Galatians 5:22, Eph.5:9, Romans 15:14, 2Thess.1:12,12

\*Randy Alcorn, *God is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil*; Paul Billheimer, *Don't Waste Your Sorrows*; Joni Eareckson Tada & Steve Estes, *When God Weeps, Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty*