

WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN BELIEVERS
PART 3-GRACE MULTIPLIED-PART 4
2 PETER 1:2; 1 PETER 5:10

INTRODUCTION

We been looking the last three weeks at some of the different types of grace that come to the life of the believer: *SAFEGUARDING GRACE...SAVING GRACE...SECURING GRACE...SANCTIFYING GRACE...SERVING GRACE ...SACRIFICING GRACE...SINGING GRACE...SPEAKING GRACE... STRENGTHENING GRACE...*

SUFFERING GRACE.

1 Peter 5:10—“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

I. THE PAIN OF SUFFERING.

The **BIBLE** plainly reveals that **TROUBLE** and **SUFFERING** is the lot mankind, including **BELIEVERS**, and we know that is true by experience! Don't we?

Job 14:1—“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.”

Understand That There Is SUFFERING Because Of SIN!

A. SUFFERING Exists Because of Original SIN!

There are many that blame **GOD** for all of the **SUFFERING** in this world!

However, all **SUFFERING** can be traced back to **ADAM'S ORIGINAL SIN** in the **GARDEN OF EDEN!**

Genesis 3 reveals that **SIN** brought with it a **CURSE**; it brought **SORROW** and **SUFFERING**; it brought **DEATH** and **DESTRUCTION!**

At that point, **PARADISE** on earth was ended!

B. SUFFERING Exists Because Of Our SIN!

We **SIN** because we are **SINNERS**. **PERSONAL SIN** oftentimes brings us increased **SUFFERING**.

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GOD'S LAWS OF SOWING AND REAPING come into play.

Galatians 6:7-8—“7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

1. You Reap Where You Sow.
2. You Reap What You Sow.
3. You Reap More Than You Sow.
4. You Reap Later Than You Sow.

SUFFERING Exist Because Of Original Sin...Our Sin...

C. SUFFERING Exists Because Of Other's SINS!

Our lives can be affected by the **SINS** of others even if we are **BELIEVERS** and **FAITHFUL TO GOD!**
(e.g. *The family of the victims in yesterday's mass shooting*)
(e.g. *The judgment of GOD against wicked nations!*)

SUFFERING is part of living in a **SIN-CURSED** world!
There are many examples in **SCRIPTURE!**

(e.g. *JOSEPH – SUFFERED* because of the **SIN** of his brothers...*SUFFERED* because of the **SIN** of Potiphar's wife.

(e.g. *DANIEL* and the three **HEBREW CHILDREN SUFFERED** because **SIN PREVAILED** in their nation and so they were carried away into **BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY**.)

D. SUFFERING Expands Because Of Overlooking SIN!

Proverbs 28:13—“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

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THE PAIN OF SUFFERING...

II. THE PATHOLOGY OF SUFFERING.

What types of **SUFFERING** can we expect, even as **BELIEVERS**?

A. Sometimes We Deal With PHYSICAL SUFFERING:

1. Imperfections. (Genetic traits and disorders)
2. Illnesses.
3. Injury.
4. Natural Disasters.
5. Financial Hardships.
6. Aging.

B. Sometimes We Deal With EMOTIONAL SUFFERING:

1. Depression.
2. Heartache.
3. Grief.

C. Sometimes We Deal With SPIRITUAL SUFFERING:

When we determine to live for the **LORD** we can expect it!
2 Timothy 3:12—“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

1. **SATANIC/DEMONIC OPPRESSION.**
2. **PERSECUTION.**

It is why **PAUL** asked for **PRAYERS** from the **CHURCHES** he wrote to!

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THE PAIN...THE PATHOLOGY OF SUFFERING...

III. THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING.

We know that this present world is under **GOD’S CURSE** because of **SIN**, and so the **BELIEVER** participates in the normal **AFFLICTIONS** of life because he lives in this present world!

But, why does GOD allow SUFFERING in the life of a BELIEVER?

A. Sometimes It Is For TESTING Us, GROWING Us And Ultimately REWARDING Us!

GOD uses **SUFFERING** to **TEST** the **BELIEVER’S FAITH** and to **PRODUCE SPIRITUAL GROWTH** and **REWARD**.

(1 Peter 5:10; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 1 Peter 4:12-13)

James 1:3-4—“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

2 Corinthians 4:17—“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”

B. Sometimes It Is For CHASTENING Or CORRECTION! BELIEVERS are subject to the LAWS OF SOWING AND REAPING that we talked about just as the WICKED are!

We know that many of our **TROUBLES** are the **FRUIT OF OUR OWN SIN** and **FOOLISHNESS**, or maybe even our **LACK OF WISDOM**, and our **SLOTHFULNESS!**

The **CONSEQUENCES OF SIN** can be some of the greatest **CHASTENING** there is. And so, the **LORD** may allow us to **SUFFER** the natural **CONSEQUENCES** of our **SIN**.

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Hebrews 12:5-6—“*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*”

- C. **Sometimes It Is For KEEPING US CLOSE TO HIM!**
Psalm 119:67—“*Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*”

Psalm 119:71—“*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*”

- D. **Sometimes It Is FOR US TO BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS!**
2 Corinthians 1:4—“*Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*”

- E. **Sometimes It Is To ACCOMPLISH HIS SOVEREIGN PURPOSES!**
John 9:2-3—“*And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*”

Romans 8:28—“*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

1 Peter 4:19—“*Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*”

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It would do us well to remember that **GOD IS GOD!**
HE has a right to do as **HE** pleases!
HE will fulfill **ALL** of **HIS WORD!**

THE PAIN...PATHOLOGY...PURPOSE OF SUFFERING.

- IV. **THE PROVISION FOR SUFFERING.**
The GRACE of GOD in our LORD JESUS CHRIST!
Hebrews 2:18—“*For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*”

The word “*succour*” means “*to aid or relieve; to help.*”

Hebrews 4:14-16—“*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*”

- V. **THE PASSING OF SUFFERING.**
(1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 50-58)

Thank **GOD** there is an **END TO SUFFERING** for the **BELIEVER** because of **CHRIST!**

1 Peter 5:10 says that suffering is for “*awhile*”.

1 Peter 1:6 says it is “*for a season.*”

Romans 8:18 calls them “*the sufferings for this present time.*”

As a **CHILD OF GOD**, while we may not know the length of the **SUFFERINGS** of this life, we do know that eventually they will be over!

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Conclusion

So, in light of what we've seen about **SUFFERING** today, what should be our **RESPONSE** to **SUFFERING**? Four possible responses:

1. We may choose to despise it and blame **GOD** for it, **but rebelling instead of submitting; this leads to hardness of heart and even more SUFFERING.**
2. We may **FAINT UNDER IT** and **ALLOW IT TO BREAK US!**
Proverbs 24:10—*“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”*
3. We may **ACQUIESCE** and **BEAR IT**, but not **JOYFULLY!**
4. We may **JOYFULLY YIELD TO THE WILL OF GOD**
RELYING FULLY ON HIS GRACE! That brings **VICTORY!**