

Suffering

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“I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us.”

Revelation 1.9

NIV

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.”

Philippians 1.29

NIV

“...everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

2 Timothy 3.12

NLT

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—
heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if
indeed we share in **his** sufferings in order
that we may also share in his glory.”

Romans 8.17

NIV



our own
foolishness



the fallen
world



following
Christ

The Sufferings of Christ

Physical - Mark 15.15, 21-37

Emotional - Mark 14.10-11, 43-46, 50, 66-72

Psychological - Mark 15.16-20, 21-37

Spiritual - Mark 15.34

So why suffering?

“They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.

“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.”

Acts 14.21-22

NIV

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2.8-9

NIV

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1.3-4

NIV

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1.4-5

NIV

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come **so** that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

1 Peter 1.5-7

NIV

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Romans 5.1-4

NIV

“We sent Timothy ... to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are
destined for them.”

1 Thessalonians 3.2-3

NIV

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.”

Hebrews 12.7-8

NIV

“...have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Hebrews 12.5-6

NIV

“enforced learning”



1. We are not excused from suffering when we follow Christ (we're actually invited into it!)

Revelation 1.9

Philippians 1.29

2 Timothy 3.12

Acts 14.21-22

2. Suffering is designed to bring about glory, the strengthening of our faith and godly character

Romans 8.17

1 Peter 1.5-7

Romans 5.1-4

3. For the believer, suffering is not punishment or abandonment but rather love in the form of “enforced learning”

Hebrews 12.5-8

Revelation 3.19

1 Peter 5.10