

TIME OUT !!

1. Have you seen God use suffering in your life to help you?
2. Have you seen God use suffering in the lives of others to help them?
3. According to the Bible, is it always God's will that we be healed?
4. Is the only hindrance to our healing our faith that God can do it?

How to Benefit from Suffering



NOTES AND "QUOTES"

When we pray, ask for God's will to be done. That through suffering or healing, we can glorify Him.

KEY IDEA:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

Many times when we see suffering in this world, we are prone to ask, "Why?" The Bible gives us some definite ways how we can benefit from suffering, and use it for our own spiritual enrichment. In this lesson we will study how we can experience suffering and benefit spiritually because of it.

FIRM FOUNDATION LESSON

Lesson 9

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FILL IN – Above all else we must remember – God did not plan suffering and death for the world. For a background, turn to these verses in the Bible.

1. *Genesis 2:15-17* records that God originally planned for man to do what?

2. What was the one command God gave Adam and Eve?

3. According to *Genesis 3:4-5* who tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit?

4. Because Adam and Eve sinned, what happened to them in *Genesis 3:17-24*?

5. According to the Bible, who is to blame for sin, suffering, and death in the world today? _____

TRUE OR FALSE – Mark “T” for true and “F” for false concerning these statements about suffering.

- ____ 1. According to *II Corinthians 11:23-27*, the Apostle Paul never had to suffer.
- ____ 2. Jesus enjoyed the suffering He went through because He knew how it would help the world. *Hebrews 12:2*
- ____ 3. *II Timothy 3:12* shows that all who would live for Christ might have to suffer.
- ____ 4. Jesus implied in *Matthew 16:24* that those who follow Him must be ready and willing to suffer by taking up a cross.
- ____ 5. Jesus encourages His disciples in *Matthew 5:11-12* that those who suffer for His sake will be rewarded.
- ____ 6. *Revelation 21:4* tells us there will never be a day when suffering and sorrow will cease for the Christian.

MATCHING – Match the answers with the scriptural reference to show how suffering can be used by a Christian as an opportunity to do good for God, others, and ourselves.

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| A. <i>John 9:1-3</i> | E. <i>II Corinthians 12:9</i> |
| B. <i>Philippians 1:12</i> | F. <i>Psalm 119:67</i> |
| C. <i>Romans 8:28</i> | G. <i>Acts 5:40-41</i> |
| D. <i>James 5:13</i> | H. <i>II Corinthians 1:4</i> |

- ____ 1. Use suffering as an opportunity to praise God.
- ____ 2. Use suffering as an opportunity to prepare yourself to help others.
- ____ 3. Use suffering as an opportunity for God’s strength to be seen in you.
- ____ 4. Use suffering as an opportunity for God’s power to be seen at work.
- ____ 5. Use suffering as an opportunity to further spread the Gospel.
- ____ 6. Use suffering to keep us from wandering away from God.
- ____ 7. Use suffering as an opportunity to pray.
- ____ 8. Use suffering as an opportunity for God to work out the good in your life.