

“SUFFERING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT”

Pastor Mark Johnson

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INTRO: Four causes of suffering: 1) Living in a fallen world, 2) The actions of others, 3) Our poor choices, and 4) Persecution for our faith (most N.T. suffering).

James 5:10-11, 13a. This passage assumes believers may suffer, and when we do, we should persevere like Job. The Lord is compassionate & merciful towards those suffering. God brought a good end out of Job’s suffering (42:12-17).

1 Peter 2:19-23. It’s commendable if we suffer for our faith – for doing good, but not if we suffer for our faults – for doing wrong. We’re called to follow Christ’s example when suffering. Jesus didn’t compromise, speak wrongly or seek revenge, but drew close to God and left judgment to God.

1 Peter 3:14, 17. We’re blessed if we suffer for righteous-ness’ sake. Don’t be fearful or intimidated by threats (Acts 5:41)! It’s better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-19. Just as Christ suffered for us, we should be willing to suffer for Him. When suffering, we should live for God’s will rather than give in to the lusts of the flesh. Firey trials are normal for the believer. Rejoice in trials because God’s glory will be revealed. Avoid the suffering that comes from doing wrong by doing right (see also 1Pet. 3:17).

1 Peter 5:1, 8-11. Suffering for Christ leads to partaking of God’s glory. Believers may suffer, but only for a season, but should come out further refined in faith (Psalm 30:5).

Romans 8:16-18. The sufferings don’t compare to the glory revealed!

Phil. 1:29; 3:8-11. It’s been granted to believe in Christ and suffer for Him. Paul was willing to suffer loss to gain Christ.

1Thessalonians 2:2, 14; 3:4. Believers do suffer tribulation.

2Timothy 1:8-12; 2:8-9; 3:12. Unashamedly share in the sufferings for the gospel.

See also Heb. 5:8; 10:32; 11:25; Rev. 2:8-11.

CONCLUSION: You will face suffering – persevere!