

Adversity, Suffering & Trials

Sometimes, the Christian life involves testing and adversity. Through adverse situations, God purifies us and removes from our lives those things that are not pleasing to Him. We can expect some suffering in this life. All of the apostles and our Lord Himself suffered. He loves us! We can trust Him regardless of what we may be experiencing.

...but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-4)

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)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him. (Philippians 1:29)

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philippians 3:10)

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:20-21)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. (Isaiah 26:3)

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:12-13)

1. What does it mean to suffer for Christ?
 2. How does God work things out for good?
 3. What are examples of trials and how can I be thankful when I face them?
 4. What are reasons (other than trials) that I might be going through tough times?
 5. What are good and bad reasons why we might be persecuted or rejected by non-Christians?
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MEMORIZE: James 1:2-4