

### Thirteen Reasons for Christian Suffering \*

- 1.) Suffering may come because of an unrepentant condition. (Heb. 12:6; Jas. 5:13-16; Prov. 28:13)  
At times it is necessary for God to inflict pain in order to call the Christian to confess his sin.
  - a. Some of the examples of the corrective discipline of God are David (1 Sam. 11-12; Psa. 32,38, 51) Achan Josh. 7:15), Israel (Deut. 28; Amos 4; Lev. 26; 1 Kgs. 8) the Corinthians (1 Cor. 11:29-30), the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-22).
  - b. God uses a variety of means in carrying His chastisement. (Ex. 4:24-26; Psa. 32:3-4; 38:3-12; Sam. 24:1-17; 1 Cor.11:30; Jas. 5:13-15; Rev. 2:5,16;3:3 Matt. 18:15-21; 1 Jn. 5:16-17 What are some of these means? Loss of health, death, brought to knees, friends avoid, ect.
  - c.) The response of the Christian to divine discipline is to be repentant. This involves recognizing the purpose of such discipline (Jn. 15:2 Heb. 12:10; 1 Cor. 5:15) and confessing one's sin to God. (Jas. 5:15-16; Psa. 1-3; 1 Jon1:9)
- 2.) Suffering is for the purpose of developing endurance (staying power).  
(Jas. 1:3; Heb. 12:1-3,7,11; Rom 5:3)
- 3.) Suffering is for the purpose of developing wisdom.  
(Jas. 1:5 Psa. 73:17 119:71)
- 4.) Suffering is for the purpose of providing opportunities to witness for Christ.  
(2 Tim. 2:9-10; Phil. 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 3:15; Acts 8:1-5)
- 5.) Suffering is for the purpose of developing Christian character. (Rom. 5:4; Job. 23:10; Heb. 12:10-11; Gal. 5:22-23; Jn. 15:2; 2 Cor. 4:11)
- 6.) Suffering provides the opportunity for future reward.  
Jas. 1:12; Matt. 25:14; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11; 4:4,10)
- 7.) Suffering can be the occasion for learning contentment.  
(Phil. 4:11-12; Jsa. 1:10,11)
- 8.) Suffering can teach us how to comfort others who suffer.  
(2 Cor. 1:3-24; 7:6,7; 1 Thess. 3:6,7)
- 9.) Suffering is the opportunity to experience the power of God in our time of weakness.  
(2 Cor. 11:24-33; 12:7-10; 1 Thess. 1:6-8; Acts 17:5-6)
- 10.) Suffering can be the opportunity to stimulate generosity  
(2 Cor. 8:2)
- 11.) Suffering provides the opportunity to vindicate the character of God.  
(Job. 1:11; 2:5; 42:1-6)
- 12.) Suffering is the opportunity to demonstrate the genuineness of the believer's faith to Satan.  
(Job 1:8; Rev. 12:10; 2:10)
- 13.) Suffering encourages the believer to trust God.  
Isa. 50:10; 55:8-9; Job 42:5,6; Psa. 46; 1 Pet. 2:9).

\*Adopted from The Role of Suffering in the life of a Christian by Dr. Howard E. Dial