

“Suffering: Jesus and You”

Jesus was a suffering **Savior**.

Isaiah 53:3-5 (NIV)

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Luke 22:42 (NIV)

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Luke 22:44 (NIV)

And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Matthew 27:46 (NIV)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Temptation

Misunderstood

Mocked

Betrayed

Falsely accused

Rejected

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Criticized

Persecuted

Man of Sorrows

Sweat Blood

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

Jesus..... **For the joy set before him** he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

God will use your suffering to make you more like Jesus, if you allow Him.

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

Not only so, but we also glory **in** our sufferings, *because we know* that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

God's purpose is greater than any pain you are going through.

Suffering produces **perseverance**.

(how to handle pressure)

Endure

Patience

Diligence

Persistence

The opposite of perseverance is **panic**.

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2 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Perseverance produces **character**.

(tested and proven reliable, purified)

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ ***because you know*** that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Character produces **hope**.

(confidence, attitude)

Matthew 5:45 (NIV)

He (God) causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NLT)

You must have the same **attitude** that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the

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earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Attitude by Charles Swindoll

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, the education, the money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"

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