

REASONS WHY GOD ALLOWS SUFFERINGS

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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Why does God allow sufferings? Even those of us who experience the goodness of God ask why is there suffering. Suffering means we feel pain. In moments of suffering, we question God: "Why Lord?" God does not deny suffering, but He mercifully prepares us; He himself has taken part in our suffering. In the midst of our suffering, we must remember to take courage because Jesus has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33) and He will always be with us and will uphold us.

1. How do we reconcile with a God who has shown us such goodness despite pain and suffering (Isa. 4:6)?

- 1.1. God did not come to condemn the world but to save the world (Jn. 3:16-17).
- 1.2. "I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope (Jer. 29:11).
- 1.3. "I came that you may have fullness of life" (Jn. 10:10).
- 1.4. While we were sinners Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). God demonstrated His own love for us.
- 1.5. Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come to you (1 Pt. 4:12).
- 1.6. We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14: 22)." Hardship is our visa to enter heaven.

2. Seven (7) Powerful Biblical Passages why God allows suffering:

2.1 Suffering humbles us. Suffering reminds us of our humanity; we do not have control of our life. When we let go of our pride, we become humble through sufferings. David said: "*it was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees*" (Ps. 119:71).

2.2 Suffering drives us to dependence on God. When our lives are in a mess, we lean on God and He allows us to see that He is enough; He is more than anything this earth can offer. When we feel sick, let us remember Exo. 15:26 – "for I, the Lord, am your healer."

2.2 Suffering and pain remind us that this world is not our home. We are only temporary residents, or foreigners on this earth (Heb.13:14). When we accept this, we re-direct our lives to focus more on pleasing the Lord and realizing our pain is temporary (Rom. 8:18). Our troubles allow us to attain eternal glory (2Cor. 4:17).

2.3 Suffering helps us identify with Christ's sufferings. We must rejoice when we participate in the suffering of Christ (1Pt.4:1; Phil. 3:8-19). When we have problems, we realize that God is alive, present and He responds to us. There are 2 Crosses that remind us:

2.3.1 Cross with Christ – He was crucified.

2.3.2 Cross without Christ – He is already in heaven with God.

3 Suffering trains us in righteousness. We must endure hardship as a form of discipline. Like a father, He is treating us as His children. (Heb. 12:7-11).

4 Suffering produces endurance. Endurance produces character, and character produces hope (Rom. 5:3). God is not just interested in holding us, but in giving us comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can also comfort those in trouble (2 Cor. 1:4).

5 Suffering tests our faith. Beyond our singing and praising halleluiahs, suffering really tests our faith (1 Pt. 1:5-8).

6 Suffering helps us to mature and be patient. God assures us of His love, and that He is always present in our life. "When we are tempted, He will always provide a way out and that we will overcome" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Conclusion: Suffering and Endurance are keys in strengthening our faith so that we may share God's holiness (Jas. 1:2-14). Serving and obeying the Lord are the secrets to leading a spirit-filled life.

Reflection:

1. What is making you suffer these days? How are you getting through this pain?
2. Who do you turn to for comfort?

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