



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

It seems we are hardwired to view suffering as bad. Scripture, however, gives us many blessings associated with suffering. While these are certainly easier to write (or read) than they are to experience, we need to have a biblical perspective of suffering. Here are a dozen reasons to be thankful to God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the sufferings and trials He allows (or causes) us to endure:

1. Suffering can wean us off earthly comforts, securities, pleasures, and idols. Anything that causes us to realize this world is not our home is ultimately a good thing (Rom.12:1-2; Col.3:1-2).
2. Suffering can compel us to be (more) thankful for God's blessings and provisions. It is easy to take God, and His manifold blessings, for granted; deprivation can remedy that (Eph.1:3; Phil.4:11-13; Jms.1:17).
3. Suffering can help us to see the insidious nature of sin and evil. Living in a "moralized" world can sometimes mask the true depravity of the unsaved human heart and mind (Tit.3:3-6).
4. Suffering can lead us to spend more time in prayer. Whatever drives us to our knees in prayer, in humble recognition of and submission to God, is ultimately a good thing (Rom.12:12; 1Pet.4:7).
5. Suffering can give us more of an urgency and opportunity to evangelize the lost. All too often, Christians are satisfied with, and complacent toward, those who are going to hell (1Pet.3:15).
6. Suffering can draw us ever-closer to Christ. In the words of the great hymn: "If ever I loved Thee, Lord Jesus, 'tis now" (2Thess.3:5; 1Pet.1:8-9).
7. Suffering can create in us a great appetite for Scripture and doctrinal truths. In a world searching for answers, and wallowing in lies, God's Word remains the inerrant and immutable standard of truth (Col.3:16; Heb.4:12; 2Tim.3:16-17).
8. Suffering can remind us of the fragility and brevity of human life. Death is to be a sobering wake-up call to all who are alive (Lk.13:1-4; Heb.9:27).
9. Suffering can awaken us to the uncertainty of "tomorrow." Nothing quite like ruined plans, and dashed expectations, to remind us that we do not know what the future holds (Jms.1:13-17).
10. Suffering can compel us to be more compassionate toward and willing to serve the needs and sorrows of others (2Cor.1:3-6; Rom.12:15).
11. Suffering can humble us. Sorrows and trials can uniquely keep us from becoming conceited or humble us if we are thinking of ourselves too highly (1Cor.12:7-10; Phil.2:3-8).
12. Suffering can stir us to yearn for the Coming of Christ. "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev.22:20; Phil.3:20-21; 2Pet.3:11-12).

My prayer is that you will prayerfully consider these benefits, and that the Lord will use anything and everything to increase our gratefulness to and godliness in Him.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(2/2/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #5):

Genesis 16-19; Joshua 21-24; Psalm 12-14; Job 9-10; Isaiah 23-28; Matthew 11-13; Romans 9-10

Recommended Reading:

"Surprised by Suffering" by R.C. Sproul