

## CouplesInBloom.com – Trusting During Suffering

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We know next to nothing ⇨ Job 32-41 (yes, all those chapters) (quite fascinating). God knows all things ⇨ 1 John 3:20 and by Him we know all that we do know ⇨ 1 John 2:20. This is important to remember so that we keep **trusting** God **during** our **suffering**, especially severe suffering. Expect suffering ⇨ John 15:20 and understand the privilege of it ⇨ Matthew 5:11. Angels wonder how we keep trusting God without seeing Him ⇨ 1 Peter 1:6-12. Maybe this is why we will rule over them one day ⇨ 1 Corinthians 6:1-3.

We **like** “the power of God’s resurrection” but not “the fellowship of God’s sufferings” ⇨ Philippians 3:9-11. Hebrews 5:8 ⇨ says Jesus Christ learned obedience from what He suffered. These and many other verses (e.g. ⇨ James 1:2-4; Romans 8:28) are very clear: suffering is part of Christianity. Suffer as a good soldier of Jesus Christ ⇨ 2 Timothy 2:3. **Why?** Why do soldiers suffer? Besides learning obedience (above), suffering is required to bring benefit to others. We cannot selfishly believe the life God gave us is all about us.

**Didn’t Jesus pay my way?** Spiritually, **yes**; physically, **no**. Some Christians teach that prosperity means no suffering; this is not Biblical, it is false. Those who become deceived by it get angry with God when they suffer, because suffering violates their (false) view of God. I am over a half century old and I have seen Galatians 6:7-8 come true time after time, even with many decades between the sowing and the reaping. This, to me, is one of the **scariest** verses in the entire Bible. Yes, we are supposed to **fear** God ⇨ Proverbs 1:7.

The context that frames these ‘negative’ things (suffering, fear) is **God’s love!** There is nothing more ‘positive’ than the only God creating us, redeeming us, giving us eternal life in perfection (Heaven) plus blessings now. **Suffering can destroy us if we do not remind ourselves as often as necessary (at least daily) of this wonderful big picture.**

A main component of this context is that earth is a fallen world. Falsely expecting life now to be Heaven on earth is a trick of the devil, who even tempted Jesus with creature comforts ⇨ Matthew 4:1-11. Remember ‘Christians’ means ‘little Christs’: we follow Him... to Heaven, regardless of the cost... which He gives grace to endure ⇨ Acts 15:11.

**The summary of suffering is positive.** However, soldiers do not understand all they are told to do ⇨ Matthew 8:8-10. If we try to understand everything, especially suffering, we are arrogant and need to get over it right away. God knows everything and is currently inter-administrating about 7 billion individuals on earth. Thankfully, He is good at it, and the bottom line is we need to trust Him, even if it kills us ⇨ Daniel 3:17-19; Revelation 12:11. **How is this positive? How it all ends!** Read ⇨ Daniel 3:20-30; Revelation 21.

We must remember the grace God gives us for **our** every trial, as the Bride of Christ, when we experience trials and suffering in our **marriage**. **Are we tired of hearing this? Does God get tired of hearing us?** God chooses to love us while hating our sin. It is NOT too much to return the kindness, **is it?** Especially when He also gives grace to do it!

**Why is life like this? Why do I write about this?** Because people Couples In Bloom ministers to suffer **in furnaces of their own, and will not survive without God’s truth.** God does not tickle ears; He saves souls. **So trust God and be saved.** ♥ Loren Falzone