

Grace Unraveled  
God of All Comfort  
2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Images of suffering are prevalent in our world. The human condition, tainted by sin, has produced suffering in every era of recorded history. We are bothered by it and do our best to eradicate suffering. We should do our best to alleviate suffering, but we must always keep it and our efforts in proper perspective.

1. God is a God of all \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. God's character is not in \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. God is revealed in our \_\_\_\_\_
2. God comforts us in all \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Suffering does not indicate a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith
  - B. Suffering does not indicate a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith
3. God comforts so we can \_\_\_\_\_ others
  - A. We learn \_\_\_\_\_ by experiencing grace
  - B. We learn \_\_\_\_\_ by experiencing suffering

Some Purposes of Suffering

- Suffering may expose \_\_\_\_\_ and initiate \_\_\_\_\_
- Suffering may awaken us to world \_\_\_\_\_
- Suffering may shift our source of \_\_\_\_\_
- Suffering may press us to regard God's \_\_\_\_\_
- Suffering may compel us to \_\_\_\_\_ for one another

It is important that believers remember that Jesus has not asked His followers to do anything that He was not willing to do. Jesus, in good conscience, told would-be followers to take up their cross and follow Him, knowing that He would lead the way to Calvary. We participate in the suffering of Christ knowing that one day we will participate in the glory of Christ. That should keep us going for another day.

Reflection

What do you do to avoid suffering? Are you worried about it? Do you stress over its potential? How can you begin to overcome fear and doubt that comes from suffering or potential suffering? What tangible steps can you take this week to alleviate worry and experience the joy of being saved by all-knowing, all-caring, ever-faithful Creator of the universe?