

Sixteen Ways God May Use Suffering (part 1)

Introduction

A. What is suffering?

B. Famous men in Scripture who suffered

- _____ - "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"
- _____ - "you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good"
- _____ - beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, perils, weariness, sleeplessness...
- _____ - suffer many things... rejected... killed

C. The art of cautiously assigning motives to God

1. Suffering destroys the _____ of self-sufficiency and keeps us totally _____ upon God.

- Deuteronomy 8:2-5
 - v2 — a general statement, a _____ that God did what He did: "to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart"
 - v3 — a more specific answer – "that He might make you _____ that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."
 - v4 — a reminder of God's faithful _____ during the suffering
 - v5 — a perspective of God's faithful _____ of those whom He loves
- 2 Corinthians 12:6-9
- Psalm 56:3
- John 6:68

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2. Suffering teaches us to _____.

- Acts 12:1-5
- Matthew 26:39

3. Suffering causes us to _____ the Bible.

- Psalm 119:68, 71
- Psalm 119:25, 28

4. Suffering makes us _____ and gives us _____ in ministry to others' needs.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - principle seen in Leviticus 19:33-34 – sympathy for the foreigner
 - principle seen in 2 Corinthians 4:5; 5:20 – sympathy for the lost

5. Suffering draws families and friends _____.

- Romans 12:15
- 1 Corinthians 12:25-26a

6. Suffering corrects _____, causing us to distinguish the eternal from the transitory, the important from the non-essential.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- 1 John 2:15-17