

Suffering

25 Reasons Why Christians Suffer

1. To produce the fruit of patience. Rom 5:3; James 1:3-4; Heb 10:36
2. To produce the fruit of joy. Ps 30:5; Ps 126:5-6
3. To produce the fruit of maturity. Eccles 7:3; 1Pet 5:10
4. To produce the fruit of righteousness. Heb 12:11
5. To silence the devil. Job 1:9, 10, 20-22
6. To teach us. Ps 119:67, 71
7. To purify our lives. Job 23:10; Ps 66:10-12; Isa 1:25; Isa 48:10; Prov 17:3; 1Pet 1:7
8. To make us like Christ. Heb 12:9, 10; 1Pet 4:12-13; Phil 3:10; 2 Cor 4:7-10
9. To glorify God. Ps 50:15; John 9:1-3; John 11:1-4; John 21:18-19; Phil 1:19-20
10. To prevent us from sinning. 2Cor 12:7, 9-10
11. To make us confess when we do sin. Judg 10:6-7, 15-16; Ps 32:3-5; Hos 5:15; Hos 6:1; 2Chron 15:3-4
12. To chasten us for our sin. 1Pet 4:17
13. To prove our sonship. Heb 12:5-6
14. To reveal ourselves to ourselves. Job 42:6; Luke 15:18
15. To help our prayer life. Isa 26:16
16. To become an example to others. 2Cor 6:4-5; 1Thess 1:6-7
17. To qualify us as counselors. Rom 12:15; Gal 6:2; 2Cor 1:3-5
18. To further the gospel witness. Acts 8:1-5; Acts 16:25-34; Phil 1:12-13; 2Tim 4:6-8, 16-17
19. To make us more than conquerors. 2Cor 2:14; Rom 8:35, 37
20. To give us insight into God's nature. Job 42:5; Rom 8:14-15, 18
21. To drive us closer to God. 1Pet 4:14; 2Cor 12:10
22. To prepare us for a greater ministry. 1 Kings 17-18; John 12:24
23. To provide us a reward. Matt 5:10-12; Matt 19:27-29; Rom 8:16-17; 2Cor 4:17
24. To prepare us for the kingdom. 2Thess 1:5; 2 Tim 2:12

25. To show God's sovereignty.

Rom 8:28; 1Cor 10:13; Ps 66:10-12; Gen 45:5-8; Gen 50:20

13 Proper Reactions to Suffering

1. Expect suffering.

John 15:19-20; John 16:2, 20, 33; Heb 12:9-10; 2Tim 3:12

2. Commit your soul to God at the very beginning of your suffering.

Ps 3:5-6; Ps 37:3; Ps 31:5; Dan 3:14-18; Heb 6:17-20; 1Pet 4:19

3. Don't try to understand all the reasons for your suffering.

Rom 8:28

4. Realize others suffer.

1Cor 10:13; 1Pet 5:8-9

5. Pray while in your suffering.

Ps 50:15; Job 42:10; James 5:14; Mark 9:20-24

6. Don't despise your suffering.

Heb 12:5

7. Don't faint because you're suffering.

Prov 24:10; Heb 12:5

8. Patiently endure your suffering in a steadfast way.

Rom 12:12; 2Tim 2:3; James 5:10; 1Pet 2:20

9. Thank God for your sufferings.

Ps 42:5; 1Thess 5:18

10. Rejoice because of your sufferings.

Acts 5:40-41; Acts 16:25; Phil 4:4; James 1:2; James 5:11

11. Don't become a self-made martyr because of your sufferings.

Heb 12:12-13

12. Don't suffer needlessly.

1Pet 2:20; 1Pet 3:17; 1Pet 4:15-17

13. Weigh your current suffering against the coming joy.

John 16:20-21; Rom 8:18

5 Sources of Suffering

1. Suffering may be caused by satanic activity.

Job 1-2; Luke 13:15-16; Acts 10:38

2. Suffering may be caused by ungodly men.

2Tim 4:14

3. Suffering may be caused by this world's system.

2Pet 2:8

4. Suffering may be caused by the believer's own fallen nature.

Rom 7:14-23

5. Suffering may be caused by carnal Christians.

Phil 1:15-16; 2Tim 4:10

Works Cited

Willimington, H.L. *Book of Bible Lists*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers Inc., 1987:318-321

