

## GOD'S FAMILY VALUES, PART 6

### GOD VALUES SUFFERING... THE FORGOTTEN VALUE

#### The Reality of Suffering

A Biblical characteristic of Christianity that makes it a unique religion is the way Christians face and value suffering. (James 1:2)

#### The Sources of Suffering

- **Sin** We all suffer directly and indirectly as a consequence of sin.  
~Genesis 3:16-19  
*-Suffering the direct consequences of sin can bring us to God as repentant sinners who otherwise would have continued to sin and remained separated from God.*
- **Discipline** *For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines*  
~Hebrews 12:6  
-Discipline often comes in the form of suffering...to correct and redirect us as an expression of God's love and commitment when we have been disobedient.  
-A lack of discipline in the face of sin and disobedience is an indication that one is not a Christian.  
-God, is this suffering from you in order to discipline and correct me?
- **Persecution** *"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*  
~Matthew 5:10  
Persecution is suffering because a person identifies with Jesus Christ and attempts to do what is right!
- **Unknown Origins**  
-The life of Job is a biblical example of suffering that was endured for a reason that was never revealed to him.  
*-In the face of such suffering, the Bible calls us to rejoice, (James 1:2) knowing that God uses such suffering to accomplish great good in our lives.*

#### The Values of Suffering

- **Sharing the experience of Jesus**  
*-“Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”* ~Romans 8:17  
the value = *being one with Jesus.*
- **Anticipating the future**  
*-I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.* ~Romans 8:18  
*-Suffering leads us to desire and anticipate the glorious future guaranteed by God.*
- **Evidence of Christianity**  
*-“but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.”* ~1 Peter 4:16  
*-Suffering for the name of Christ is of great value for it is evidence of our faith!*
- **Claiming Comfort**  
*-“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”*  
~2 Corinthians 1:3-4  
*-Christians receive a supernatural comfort in the midst of suffering they would otherwise not receive.*  
*-Suffering is not a pathway to desperation but a channel for God's comfort.*
- **Glorifying God**  
*-“I tell you the truth...when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.”* ~John 21:18-19  
*-The demonstration of faith in the power and presence of God in the face of suffering glorifies God in a way like no other.*

*Every Christian has the same opportunity in the midst of suffering to discover and glorify God and experience the values of Jesus Christ!*