

"Suffering-God's Greatest Tool"

2 Cor 1:3-7 (ref)

Definition of Suffering:

"A universal by-product of life, characterized by physical, mental, and spiritual pain, hardship, and conflict. No one is immune to it; all experience it."

Silver lining: God uses it!!

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." Viktor Frankl

"I've had worse things happen" John McCain

2 Corinthians 1:3 "Bless God"

~Father of our Lord Jesus John 1:12 (ref)

~Father of Mercies Lamentations 3:22 (ref)

~God of all Comfort John 14:16 (ref)

2 Cor 1:4-5

Full Life Study Bible "This suffering is at the hands of Satan, the world, and false believers as we share in the cause of Christ."

Causes of Suffering:

Jonah 1:3 - sin and disobedience

2 Cor 12:7 - to keep Paul from sin

Romans 5:3-4 character development

2 Corinthians 1:4-7 sufferings and comfort comes so we may comfort others

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1. When suffering, we must maintain a Christian perspective, not a worldly one.

World: anger, frustration, "poor me", "why me"

Christian: "joyful" really??

James 1:2-4, Acts 5:41, Eph 6:12-13a (**all refs**)

2. Draw strength from others

Word: Shadrach Dan 3:17-18(**ref**), Job Job 2:9, 13:15 (**refs**), Paul 2 Cor 11:25-27 (**ref**)

Today: people!

**Video song: In Christ Alone (lyrics-Passion 2013, great christian song-youtube)**

3. Stand In Christ!

~Crucified 1 Corinthians 1:23 (ref)

~Resurrected Romans 6:9 (ref)

~Coming Again Acs 1:11 (ref)

Not religion, church politics, rules and regulations!

4. Simplify

2 Cor 1:3 Bless God

2 Cor 1:7 trust in the Holy Spirit

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Christian Perspective, Learn From Others, Stand in Christ!, Simplify

**Video song: Heart of Worship (Matt Redman-Heart of Worship, w lyrics, youtube)**