

# THE SEASON OF SUFFERING

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2nd Timothy 2:12

No one wants to suffer. However, **EVERY** chosen child of God will have to endure a season of suffering that has been ordained and approved by God. This season of suffering is **NOT** a punishment.

You have to **QUALIFY** to **REIGN** with God. The gift of power, control, authority and influence via the Kingdom of God does not come to you because you desire it. You must earn it. The gift of rulership comes at a cost.

A person **MUST** be willing to endure a season of suffering in order to reign with King Jesus. A season is defined as a duration of time. It can be six months, sixteen months or six years. Only God knows the time.

This season of suffering will be one of the most intense, stressful and trying times of your life because it can only be **ENDURED**, not changed. This suffering will be unique because it is not caused by self inflicted actions. It's God's will.

The suffering that is permissible by God's will has the permission to proceed in its affliction against you. Did God stop Jobs suffering immediately? No. He lost everything except his life and still the suffering continued. Did God stop King Jesus suffering when He was on the cross? No. King Jesus had to die before His suffering ended.

Did God stop David's suffering right away? No. David went through severe emotional distress in the book of Psalms as he was being hunted by multiple people trying to destroy him. There comes a time in every Kingdom citizen's life when you will have to endure a season of suffering!

## SIGNS OF SUFFERING

The indicators of suffering for God is being persecuted for righteousness, living or working in a disadvantage situation, being harassed, grieved, losing love ones, experiencing extreme emotional distress, sustaining mental injury such as losing confidence in yourself, doubting who you are, etc.

When people go through these circumstances of suffering, they usually look to see what they did wrong. This is a natural reaction. However, it's not that you did something wrong. You were chosen to **REIGN** with God. This happens to be the **QUALIFIER!**

Even though you can't change what God is doing, you **MUST NOT** lose your faith. This season of suffering is always followed by seasons of great pleasure. 2 Timothy 2:12 says, *"if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"*

God has ordained a time for you to suffer for Him. However, the scripture says, "**IF**," meaning you can choose not to suffer. You can choose not to endure what God put in front of you. However, a refusal to deny His suffering is denying Him.

If you choose to endure God's season of suffering, living in the pleasure of power, authority and influence will soon follow. Remember, those who suffer with Him will reign with Him.

Please be encouraged. Whatever your season of suffering looks like you will get through it. It won't break you. It will make you stronger. He knows how much you can handle and how much you can take.

Whatever happens, remember that you were built to carry it. Carry your cross, keep your faith and understand that this suffering will **NOT** last forever!

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