

QUESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Why should we not be surprised when we suffer? How is suffering part of God's plan for us?
2. How can we know if a trial is from the Lord, from Satan, or from our own sin?
3. How can we rejoice in trials when, honestly, we feel angry toward God? Is the anger "natural" or "sinful"?
4. A person who has gone through a horrible trial angrily asks, "How can you trust a God who allows this to happen?" What is your response?
5. What is the difference between trusting God and obeying Him? It is easier for you to trust God or to be obedient? Why?

"Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets." Luke 6:22-23

"Jesus said, 'Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.'" John 15:20

"I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages." Charles Spurgeon

"I have come to see that pain and pleasure come to us not as opposites but as Siamese twins, strangely joined and intertwined. Nearly all my memories of acute happiness, in fact, involve some element of pain or struggle." Paul Brand

"They who dive in the sea of affliction bring up rare pearls of treasure." Charles Spurgeon

"WHY WE CAN REJOICE IN SUFFERING"

1 PETER 4:12-19

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- I. Suffering is not a _____ but a _____.
Verse 12
- II. It is evidence of _____ with Christ.
Verse 13a
- III. It is a means to greater _____ in Christ.
Verse 13b

IV. Suffering leads to a deeper experience of the _____.
_____.
Verse 14

VII. Suffering is reminder to _____ the _____
with the good news of the gospel.
Verses 17-18

V. Suffering should lead to serious _____ -
_____.
Verse 15

VIII. It is a reminder of God's faithfulness to care for our
_____ and our need to _____.
Verse 19

VI. It is a means of _____.
_____.
Verse 16

Memory Verse: Trusting God

*"Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of
God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing
what is right."*
1 Peter 4:19