

“Suffering” (Galatians 3:4)

1. Suffering Defined:

Sufferings are the painful, distressing experiences of life from which NO ONE is immune.

- a. Suffering is _____ painful _____.
- b. Suffering is _____ perplexing _____.
- c. Suffering has _____ various sources _____.

Sometimes it comes from _____ others _____.
Sometimes it comes from _____ ourselves _____.
Sometimes it comes from _____ Satan _____.
- d. Suffering is _____ purposeful _____.

2. Responding to Suffering:

At the point in our suffering that we are willing to say, “Thy will, not mine be done in this suffering” is the point we can begin to experience the benefits of suffering...

3. The Benefits of Suffering:

- a. It can be a _____ witness _____ (*John 12:9-11, NIV*).
- b. It can make us more _____ empathetic _____ to others who are suffering (*2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV*).
- c. It can keep _____ pride _____ in check and keep us _____ depending _____ on God (*2 Corinthians 12:7-10, NIV*).
- d. It can _____ train _____ us (*James 1:2-4, NIV*).
- e. But the greatest thing it can do is to _____ make us more like Jesus _____ (*Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, NIV*).

4. Practical Applications:

- a. The _____ opportunity _____ of suffering is an indicator _____ that there is an opportunity to grow _____.
- b. The _____ size _____ of suffering is an indicator _____ of spiritual maturity _____.
- c. The _____ direction _____ of suffering is an indicator _____ of God’s plan for you _____.
- d. The _____ place _____ of suffering is an indicator _____ of where God can be found _____.