

The Purpose of Suffering
Creflo Dollar
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Scriptures:

- 1 Peter 1:6, 7
- John 10:10
- John 15:5
- 2 Timothy 3:10-12
- 2 Timothy 3:10-12, *NLT*
- Luke 22:31-34, 42, *NLT*
- Hebrews 2:9, 10
- Hebrews 2:9, 10, *NLT*
- Mark 14:29-31, *NLT*

Summary:

No one likes to suffer through painful situations, but suffering is part of life—especially the life of the believer. It purifies our faith to the point where we are forced to acknowledge that we cannot depend on ourselves, but only on God. Living godly lives guarantees persecution; however, for Christians who fully rely on God, it also guarantees deliverance from it. Trouble is never God's will but trusting Him in the midst of it allows Him to bring us through it and mature us.

Notes:

1. Suffering hardships brings us to the place where we have to admit that we need God.
2. Satan has been trying to get mankind to declare independence from God ever since he was cast out of heaven for declaring *his* independence from God. Jesus came for the opposite reason: to convince mankind of the need to depend completely on God for everything.
3. During His earthly ministry Jesus suffered plenty of persecution; therefore, He perfectly understands the persecution *we* go through. As our perfect leader, He wants us to depend solely on Him.
4. We are living under grace; grace teaches us to live godly, which guarantees persecution. However, depending on God also guarantees our deliverance from all of it.

Category: faith

Keywords: suffering, suffer, painful, purifies, faith, persecution, trouble, mature