

Preparing For Suffering

2 Corinthians 6:10

“as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

2 Corinthians 6:10a

1. Desperate Prayer

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent: he will lift me high upon a rock.

Psalm 27:1-5

2. Read God's Word

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans 15:14

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:105

**“I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.”**

Psalm 119:11

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.”

1 Peter 2:2

**“Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.”**

Psalm 119:18

3. See God Working In Suffering

It is Precious to be Refined

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 1:6-7

**4. The Expectation of Suffering
Compels Us to Desire God to do
Gospel Work Now.**

“Our suffering is more powerfully shaped by what’s in our heart than by what’s in our body or the world around us.”

Paul Tripp

1. Suffering Exposes Your Heart

2. Unrealistic Expectations of Life

3. Unrealistic Expectations of Others

4. Pride

5. Materialism

6. Selfism

“If life were about us and controlled by us, we would see to it that we never suffer. The crisis of faith that often accompanies suffering is the result of a collision between our will and God’s will and our glory and his glory. In our selfishness we can’t see suffering of any kind as good, so we begin to question whether God, who has allowed it into our lives, is good. Putting yourself in the centre will make the trouble you face all the more troublesome.”

Paul Tripp

Story About Suffering

5. Biblical Community

1. Please Don't Suffer Alone

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly.”

1 Peter 4:8a

2. Prepare to Help Others in Suffering

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

How to Help People In Suffering

“God makes his invisible grace visible, by sending people of grace to give grace, to people who need grace. That’s how it works. Be one of those people.”

Paul Tripp

Gospel Hope In Suffering

“as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

2 Corinthians 6:10a

“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps...He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

1 Peter 2:21,24