

Understanding and Responding to Suffering

Introduction: Are you going through a trial of suffering right now in your life? Does anyone know that you are suffering? How are you coping with the trial of suffering?

Understanding Suffering

1. The Presence of Suffering- *Suffering is inevitable*
 - Every Christian is called to suffer
 - There is common suffering among Christians throughout the world
 - A willingness to suffer is vital in fulfilling God-given relationships
 - Suffering is a necessary part of God's ultimate goal for every Christian

2. The Purpose of Suffering- *Suffering is beneficial*
 - Builds the character of Christ in us
 - Equips us for ministry to others
 - Allows us to learn obedience
 - Humbles us and brings more grace
 - Bring us to the end of ourselves
 - Brings people closer together
 - Qualifies us for future rewards

3. The Provision for Suffering- *Suffering is possible*
 - The Comfort of God
 - The Power of God
 - The Confidence of God
 - The High Priest of God

Responding to Suffering- *How to respond to suffering*

4. The Pattern for Suffering
 - Pray
 - Read the Word of God
 - Learn from others who have suffered
 - View suffering through God's eternal purposes through Christ
 - Purpose to abide under what God has designed for your life
 - Praise God
 - Be prepared for the devil's roar

Conclusion: