



# Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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## CHRISTIAN SUFFERING

Every suffering in the life of believers is explicable by the Word of God, and no believer should remain ignorant of the cause and solution to any dilemma in his life. Every case of suffering has a reason, an explanation, a biblical solution and preventive measure.

Christian suffering can be most clearly understood in relation to the individual believer's spiritual status and growth.

There are five major categories of human sufferings: two are typical of spiritual childhood, which are punitive; three are typical of spiritual adulthood, which are designed by God for blessing the believers. The link of punitive suffering with spiritual childhood and of suffering for blessing with spiritual adulthood is not a rigid distinction. The general pattern gives us a basis for understanding the pressures in our lives.

Suffering challenges us as believers to utilize the assets God has given us. It reduces our human resources and confronts us with our total reliance on the grace of God. It impresses upon us our need to conform to God's plan and purpose. Christianity is not a religion of sufferings but we cannot separate suffering from Christians, especially its tremendous benefits.

All suffering in the Christian life must be understood in relation to the plan of God. Suffering for blessing is designed for our good and for His glorification. Christ is glorified by sustaining and blessing us in any situation, whether prosperity or adversity. Rather than eliminating suffering from our lives, He gives us far greater benefits by giving us spiritual resources. God did not leave His children vulnerable to satanic power but has provided them the very power system used by Christ during His Hypostatic Union.

Every person, believer or unbeliever alike has his own share of sufferings. Whether you manufacture your own suffering or somebody will create it for you. When God created the perfect man and woman, and assigned them in a perfect Garden, there was no suffering of any kind. Suffering is part of the imperfect world and wherever there is an imperfect man, there will be suffering. Even the only perfect Man (the Lord Jesus Christ) suffered in the hands of imperfect men.

There are four major sources of suffering in the world:

- The old sin nature (OSN)
- The world
- Satan
- God

Majority of sufferings in the world are charged to Satan. He is often blamed for sufferings brought by bad decision and self-made miseries. Others accused God of unjust sufferings they created from negative volition or negligence of God's Word. God is not punishing any person because Christ took all the sins of the entire human race on the cross and paid for it, once and for all. If God has to punish mankind for sins, then, nobody will ever exist in this world. If Christ did not pay for our sins, then all of us will go directly to hell. The world is a dangerous place for Christians and its sufferings are waiting.