



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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PUNITIVE & UNDESERVED SUFFERINGS

There is a series of contrast between punitive sufferings and the undeserved sufferings for blessings.

In disciplinary suffering of the immature believer, which is deserved, the issue is personal sin and bad decisions from a position of weakness. In the mature believer's undeserved suffering, the issue is blessing and momentum because of right decisions from a position of strength. The result is progressive spiritual momentum from metabolized Bible doctrine qualifying the believer for greater blessings in time and eternity.

The believer's status under divine discipline is cosmic involvement, which is described by various terms like: carnality, reversionism, worldliness and apostasy. Under suffering for blessing, the believer's status is always residence in his palace or what I called divine sphere. There is a great difference between living in divine sphere and wasting away in Satan's dungeon (cosmos diabolicus).

Under discipline the suffering is always unbearable. God designed discipline to hurt with unbearable so that the carnal believer is forced to consider the divine solution. Under undeserved testing, suffering is always bearable. The believer under testing is using the assets of divine sphere which comprise "the way of escape" of 1 Corinthians 10:13.

The promise that "no temptation has overtaken you"... "Beyond what you are able to bear" describe testing not temptation from personal sin or divine discipline. Divine testing is designed to exercise and strengthen the believer's spiritual muscles, but discipline must be severe enough to shock the carnal believer outside the plan and purpose of God.

The believer's viewpoint when he incurs divine discipline is arrogance and subjectivity. In suffering for blessing, the viewpoint is humility and objectivity.

The only solution to divine discipline is the rebound, the most basic Christian problem-solving device. The solution to suffering for blessing involves more advanced systems of problem solving devices.

The result of divine discipline when the believer uses rebound, is that cursing is turned to blessing. The suffering ends, diminished, or continue at the same intensity, but in most cases the purpose is blessing not punishment. The result for suffering for blessing is that the Christian gains multiple benefits from the acceleration of spiritual growth, enlarged capacity and greater blessing s of spiritual maturity.

	DIVINE DISCIPLINE	SUFFERING FOR BLESSING
ISSUE	SIN	BLESSING
STATUS	COSMIC SYSTEM	DIVINE SPHERE
INTENSITY	UNBEARABLE	BEARABLE
VIEWPOINT	ARROGANCE	HUMILITY
SOLUTION	REBOUND	APPLY PROBLEM SOLVING-DEVICES
INTENDED RESULT	CURSING TURNED TO BLESSING	ACCELERATED GROWTH

Punitive suffering is beneficial to the saint because it shows him his scale of values is wrong and that he must correct his priorities in life. But when the believer resides inside the divine sphere and suffers through no faults of his own, the benefit is even greater. The purpose is to accelerate the growing believer through the stages of spiritual adulthood leading to spiritual maturity.

SUFFERING FOR BLESSINGS

The Protocol Plan of God includes two systems of spiritual growth. First, the gradual growth comes through the perception, assimilation, metabolism and application of Bible doctrine. God commanded every believer to operate consistently under this system through out his life on earth.

Second, the accelerated growth occurs when metabolized doctrine is tested under pressure. After, attaining spiritual adulthood status, further growth requires periodic suffering. This suffering for the purpose of blessing draws upon the believer's reservoir of doctrine, exercising and increasing his inner strength. Bible doctrine is spiritual nourishment; suffering for blessing is spiritual exercise.

In spiritual childhood, most suffering is self-induced or divine discipline. The only suffering of the spiritual childhood is the suffering that continues after rebound. In spiritual childhood suffering for blessing functions as a primary teacher, but in spiritual adulthood, suffering for blessing is more like a demanding college professor.

Suffering for blessing is the undeserved pain, hardship, difficulty that God periodically sends into the life of the spiritually adult believer for the purpose of accelerating spiritual growth and demonstrating the total sufficiency of His grace.

Suffering for blessing by its very connotation is not intended to hurt the believer or to make him miserable but to advance him. For the adult believer undeserved suffering is strictly a matter of blessing.

Indeed, only God can bless with suffering; suffering caused by self (old sin nature) is not only unhelpful but causes additional discipline.

God does not administer suffering for blessing until the believer reached spiritual adulthood. Spiritual adulthood is the primary criteria for suffering for blessing. God cannot send suffering for blessing until the believer has the capacity to appreciate God as its source and to be grateful for the problem-solving devices that God has provided in the divine sphere. This is the reason why suffering for blessing is the exclusive domain of the spiritually matured believer. God never gives the believer more suffering than he can bear.

No temptation (undeserved suffering) has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted (able to bear) beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape (divine problem solving-devices) also, that you may be able to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

In God's protocol plan, strength precedes suffering for blessing. God provides the means of dealing with a situation before He applies the pressure so that suffering for blessing never overloads any believer.

Only by his own bad decisions can the believer create more suffering for himself than he can bear. Only the believer himself can decide to live outside the divine power system. Only the believer can refuse and reject Bible doctrine so that he has no spiritual resources to draw upon.

When pressure crushes a believer, the cause of defeat is always his own free will volition, never the sovereignty of God. Suffering for blessing is always bearable, and it is designed for victory by using the divine resources prepared by God and available to the mature believer. Defeat is not an option but outside the plan of God for suffering for blessing.