

Unreasonable Obedience

Lesson 3 – Rejoice in Suffering

Series Overview

The obedience to which Jesus calls his followers goes beyond what feels _____ or even _____.
Jesus never commands anything he doesn't also _____ in His people,
because these commands are meant to drive us to _____ on Him.

Different Kinds of “Suffering”

Romans 5:3 - “We rejoice in our sufferings”

Not all _____ experiences qualify as the kind of “suffering” that we rejoice in.

The suffering we are talking about here is not the suffering that comes as a _____ of our _____.

1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:13-16

We might also rule out suffering that is a _____ experience of life in a _____ marred by sin.
What could we include in this category?

However, in just a minute, we'll bring that kind of suffering back into consideration...

The main kinds of suffering Scripture talks about are:

- 1) _____ for the name of Christ (**Matthew 5:10-12**, e.g.)
- 2) _____ that the Lord brings into our lives for our _____ and for his _____ purposes
This kind of suffering can *include* sickness, tragedy, distress, etc.

But we should rule out those things that are simple _____.

The Bible speaks of these sufferings in different ways:

“Trials” (**James 1:2**, **1 Peter 1:6**, etc)

“Testing” (**Luke 8:13**, **2 Corinthians 8:1-2**, **James 1:3**)

“Suffering” (**1 Peter 5:10**, **Hebrews 10:32**; **2 Timothy 4:5**)

What it means to rejoice

Regardless of what kind of suffering we experience or what we call it, we are to “rejoice” in it.

Let's be careful to understand that correctly:

Rejoicing in suffering does *not* mean we _____ suffering to non-suffering
2 Corinthians 12:7-8

Rejoicing in suffering does *not* mean we _____ suffering
Matthew 10:23; Romans 12:17-18

Rejoicing in suffering does *not* mean we must _____ the pain we experience
Hebrews 12:11, *significant portions of the Psalms and prophets*

Rejoicing means we recognize the loving, sovereign hand of God in _____ things

and trust that whatever he calls us to endure, he does so in _____ and in _____

Practically, that requires _____ (**James 5:10-11**), _____ (**Hebrews 12:1-3**),

and an uncomplaining, _____ spirit (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

Six Reasons We Rejoice in Our Sufferings (Rob's incomplete list)

They _____ Our Faith

Endurance through suffering shows that our faith is _____

Luke 8:13

1 Peter 1:6-7

Discipline from the Lord is a mark of being his _____

Hebrews 12:5-8

They _____ Us

This is Paul's point in **Romans 5:3-5**

Also **1 Peter 4:1-2**

Also **James 1:2-4**

Also **Hebrews 12:11**

(Do you get the sense that this is significant?)

Our experience in suffering reveal the true source of our _____.

It also exposes our _____, that we may repent (**Jonah 2:7-9**).

Suffering purges from our lives the _____, the _____, and the _____,
until we cling only to Christ.

They Will Be _____

This is very closely related to the reason above – the refining process is itself rewarding.

However, note **2 Corinthians 4:17** and **Matthew 5:11-12**.

They Cannot _____

No matter what God's children are called to endure, the love of God will ultimately _____.

Romans 8:35-39

They Will _____

The sufferings of this present age will _____ along with the present order of things

God prepares for us a future where there is _____ to cause his children to suffer.

Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 25:7-9

They _____ Our _____ to Christ

When we suffer in his same, we better _____ the sufferings of Jesus.

And we more strongly connect ourselves to him in _____ and _____.

This can give us greater _____ that we are abiding in him.

1 Peter 4:12-14

Philippians 3:7-11

1 Corinthians 12:7-10