

COLLECTIVE

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WHEN GOD SAYS NOTHING – THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

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John 16:33

I have told you all this Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows....

1 Peter 4:12

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

Trials and sufferings are a part of our Christian walk. We don't like it. We hope it never happens to us. We think it is meaningless. **But the fact is, suffering is at the very heart of the Christian faith.**

Christ suffered to become like us to redeem us, and so it is also thru suffering that we become like Him and experience His redemption.

Joseph and Moses had great destinies and callings in their lives. God could have just given them a smooth ride but what he wanted more than their success and blessings was their _____, and their _____ on Him, not their own strength and abilities.

We must _____, _____ and _____ him because he _____ it.

**When we seek to find God first and not ourselves
we will eventually find both God and ourselves.**

Henri Federic Amiel - "*You desire to know the art of living, my friend? It is contained in one phrase: make use of suffering.*"

God uses suffering to remove our weaknesses and to strengthen us.

Suffering transforms our _____. It humbles and removes pride. It is when we feel helpless and loss of control that causes us to realize that we need God.

Suffering changes our _____. It reveals to us things that have become too important to us – such as our career, material possessions or approval and recognition.

Suffering equips us to _____. What we used to dismiss or look as weakness in others' sufferings, we now begin to understand better, become more compassionate and tenderhearted. It's easy to judge others when things are going well for us.

Suffering strengthens our _____). In good times, it's easy to think you have a loving relationship with God. But it is only in suffering that you know if your faith and trust is truly in God alone.

In good times God whispers to us, but in adversity he shouts to us

God wants us to thrive amid difficulties. The same verses that says we will have trials and sufferings also tells us to:

- **rejoice..** *as you participate in the sufferings of Christ... (1 Peter 4:13)*
- **count it all joy** *when you fall into various trials (James 1:2)*
- **have peace ...***(in) tribulation... be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)*