

**Does victorious Christian living include sufferings?**  
(September 3, 2012)

**Does the Christian life include sufferings, or can it be stopped by faith like some teach? Did not Jesus suffer for us all so that we would not have to suffer?**

**There seem to be two opposing views on this subject. The first view states that if we suffer, it is because of unbelief. After all, Jesus already suffered all that needs to be suffered.** Those who take this view base it on scriptures such as Galatians 3:13 which reads, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us." Hence, if sin is gone, so is also the curse and the wages of sin. (Romans 6:23)

**The other view claims that we must suffer so that the Lord might be able to teach us a lesson so that he can then bless us.** They use scriptures such as Psalms 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous," and dismiss the second half of the verse which states, "but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

**Maybe one teaching is correct, or maybe both teachings are correct. Let us have a look for ourselves in the Word of God and see if we can rightly divide the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).**

**Actually, both teachings contain an element of truth, but they are misleading on their own.** Jesus did suffer for us in His death, burial, and resurrection. He also took the punishment of all men of all times so that we could be free from sin and live for righteousness.

**On the other hand, we are still living in a sin-prone body--the law of sin which is in my members (Romans 7:23)--and we still have a sin-prone soul.**

**The body has to be kept under (1 Corinthians 9:27) through prayer and fasting, and in a daily presentation of it as a living sacrifice, and the soul (mind) has to be renewed by the Word of God (Romans 12:1-2).**

**So, in that sense there is a suffering in the flesh, he that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (1 Peter 4:1). The Word does not teach us that the devil is the teacher of the Church, rather the Holy Spirit. But the anointing which you have received of Him abideth in you, and you need not that any man teach you, but as the same anointing teacheth you of all thing, and is true and is no lie, and even as it (He, the Holy Spirit) hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him (Jesus our Savior). (1 John 2:27)**

**Let's take the example of Paul the apostle who told us to follow his life's example (1 Corinthians 4:16). He suffered a multitude of persecutions and afflictions as a minister of God, yet at the same time he declared: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)**

**There is a suffering that comes from disobedience--the wages of sin (Romans 6:23)--and a suffering that comes from obedience. Paul is a great example of a person who lived a victorious life for the Lord, after his conversion on the way to Damascus. He says in one of his letters to Timothy, "all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12)**

**There is also a suffering in being trained by God, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." (Hebrews 12:6)**

**Even the master Himself suffered persecution, and this is a persecution for the sake of both the Word and the anointing. Herod tried to kill Jesus when he was an infant. Satan tempted Jesus and tried to persuade Him to prove his divinity and to follow Satan in place of doing the Father's will. Peter tried to dissuade Jesus from going to the cross, and later denied Jesus. However, I want to also point out that Jesus did take the curse of sin, sickness, and lack when he became a curse for us, 'For it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.' (Galatians 3:13)**

**They tried to stone Jesus, throw Him off a cliff, trap Him in His speech...the list goes on.**

**But praise the Lord, Jesus was unflappable, immovable, conquered Satan, hell, and the grave. This was all for you and me. "Having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15)**

**Glory to his holy name from now on and for ever! Amen!**

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