



# Berean Christian Fellowship

## DEVOTIONAL 142.0

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### Suffering with Jesus

**“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day” (2 Timothy 1:12 NASB).**

Hardships, afflictions, and trials come in every Believer’s life. At some point, every Believer comes to the end of themselves and questions God’s goodness, love, protection, and care for them. The feelings of abandonment, torment, or violence we experience in trials can make us angry with Him. We don’t often share these feelings because many in the Church see our struggles as symptoms of spiritual weakness. But God does not pretend only the “weak” have struggles. God’s Word reveals even the mightiest Believer suffers confusion and frustration in afflictions.

Read of Job—perhaps the greatest example of endurance under suffering. In less than an hour, he lost his children, his servants, and his livelihood. His response was remarkable: *“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord”* (Job 1:21b). After this, Job lost his health, his comfort, his dignity—he replied, *“Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?”* (Job 2:10b). For seven days, Job endured intense pain waiting for God to restore him—then he broke down and cursed his life: *“Why did I not die at birth?”* (Job 3:11a), for God *“has taken away my right, and...has embittered my soul”* (Job 27:2).

God’s will terrified Job in his affliction, for he knew God would *“complete what He appoints for me, and many such things are in His mind. Therefore I am terrified at His presence; when I consider, I am in dread of Him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me”* (Job 23:14-16).

But then finally, God revealed Himself to Job. Job saw God and declared, *“I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted...I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know...I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear; **But now my eye sees You**; Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes”* (Job 42:2-6 ESV). Job saw Jesus, for *“no man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son...hath declared Him”* (John 1:18 KJV). It was not until Job saw Jesus—the glory of God’s Salvation—that he saw himself as he was and repented of his frustration towards God, for he saw in Jesus things too wonderful to comprehend. It was only by looking to Jesus that Job UNDERSTOOD what it was all for. In the same way, in our afflictions, we are to be *“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart”* (Heb. 12:1-3).

A betrothed woman is encouraged in her persecution from wicked people knowing that she suffers because she has taken her beloved’s honorable name as her own, and they hate him. So every Believer must continually KNOW that they suffer for Jesus in this life because they are *“one spirit with Him”* (1 Cor. 1 17b) and they *“suffer for His sake”* (Phil. 1:29b). Yes, *“we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us”* (Rom. 8:16-18), for *“when Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory”* (Col. 3:4 ESV). May our eyes be fixed, looking to Jesus—our reason for living. Even so, Amen.

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