

SUFFERING WELL

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We differ in countless ways, yet one _____ unites us: _____.

1. Christianity stands radically apart from _____.

2. Suffering well usually involves a journey from “_____” to “_____”

3. We are a “_____” people.

4. We look to Jesus – the One with _____.

Final Comments

Life Application Questions – September 13, 2026

Acts 16:23,25 *When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; ... But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;*

Practice Courage - Read Joshua 1:9. When hardship or suffering enters your life, what is your default response—trying to escape, minimize, or “fix” it as quickly as possible, or deliberately choosing to embrace it as something God can use? In a current or past season of difficulty, how have you (or could you) actively believe and remind yourself of God’s presence *in* the suffering rather than only seeking relief *from* it?

Embrace Suffering - Read 2 Timothy 1:7. What does it look like in your current circumstances to intentionally embrace the suffering you face rather than resist, minimize, or try to escape it? Where do you notice yourself still fighting against or resenting a hard situation instead of choosing to receive it as part of God’s work in you? What unanticipated spiritual fruit might you be inadvertently be cultivating?

Believe in the Presence of God - Read Hebrews 13:5. How should we approach the perceived silence of God? What practical habits or reminders help you intentionally believe and experience that God is *with* you in the pain, not just watching from a distance?

Trust the Sovereignty of God - Read Colossians 1:16-17. What makes us resist the sovereignty of God; that is us being the clay and God being the Potter? When has your suffering been redeemed, restored, and transformed with a purpose you did not expect?

Look to Christ - How can we suffer differently by looking to Jesus? How can we encourage each other in this practice? How did Jesus handle suffering? Read Isaiah 53:3-5. What does “practicing courage” look like for you right now in the middle of your current hardship?

Learn Gratitude - Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. In the middle of your current hardship, how easy or difficult is it for you to practice genuine gratitude? What specific things can you still thank God for, even while the pain or difficulty remains unresolved?

Engage Others - Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Do you prefer to suffer alone or alongside others? What are the advantages of power in community when suffering? Who gives you comfort, and how do they provide comfort? For whom have you provided comfort, and in what specific ways do you provide comfort?

Receive Grace – Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Provide some examples of how you have or might receive grace during suffering. What are you most tempted to put your hope in instead of Christ when the suffering feels long or unresolved? How does the promise of future glory and restoration help you endure what you are facing today?

Love Well in Suffering – Read Galatians 6:2. What does it mean to live out our created purpose even in the midst of suffering? How does God want us to treat others despite our discomfort of the heart or body? How might God want to use the very struggles you are walking through to comfort, strengthen, or encourage someone else?

PRAY

Amazing Father in heaven above, we are called to “suffer well” but we don’t like it. We yearn for the day when there will be no more tears and we reside in glory. Sustain us as we battle in this fallen world so that your Mighty Name will be proclaimed. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.