

AUGUST 18

“SUFFERING IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD TO SHOW HIMSELF.”

READ

Romans 8:18, 1 Peter 4:12-13

When you come to a subject like suffering in Scripture, you may have to let go of your preconceptions. There are whole denominations built on the premise that you're not supposed to suffer, and if you do it's because you're doing something wrong. That is false! Suffering is a privilege. Now remember, we don't understand His ways and we don't know His thoughts. So whatever God does, you can't expect to understand it. Suffering is good, because it's directed by the sovereign wisdom of God. When God assigns to you a time of suffering, it's not out of anger; it's not punitive. He shows Himself through you by how you deal with it. Paul says that when you see it this way, the conversation will change. You'll not always be talking about what's wrong, because you'll realize that it's just for a moment. What you'll start talking about is the glory that's going to be revealed in you. If we talk more about what's coming, rather than what's wrong, we will begin to grasp the whole meaning of this present suffering.

PRAY

Jesus, I don't enjoy suffering, but I can endure it through Your strength and grace. Your grace is always enough. Show Yourself through me.

From October 25, 2015