

## **Title: Suffering Is a Requirement for God's People**

Romans 5.3-4 – And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces endurance** and **endurance produces character**, and **character produces hope**

### I. Why Suffering Exists?

A. Because God suffered first, especially with agony and turmoil

1. Started before in Heaven

2. Ezekiel 28. 12-15

3. Rev. 12.7-9

B. Because this ground is cursed

1. Gen. 3.17-18 and 23

C. Because Jesus Christ died for you and me

### II. The Process of Suffering That Contributes to the Potter Molding His Vessels Through Suffering

A. Two Ways of Looking at Suffering's Work

1. Rom. 5. 3-4 – Suffering = endurance – character – hope

2. Jam. 1. 2-4 – Trials = endurance – maturity & completeness

(whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy,

because you know that the testing of your faith produces

endurance, and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may

be mature and complete, lacking in nothing)

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### **B. Endurance – Greek word is hupomone**

1. Hupo = under
2. Mone = remain
3. To remain under or remaining under

### **C. Characteristics of Endurance (physical, emotional, mental agony)**

1. Commitment
2. Consistency
3. Perseverance
4. Steadfastness – unswerved by challenges

### **D. Character – Greek word is dokime**

1. Dokime – the process of result of\_\_\_ (trial, proving, or approval)
2. Etymological meaning = metaphorically in Hellenistic times as  
“defining quality or feature of an individual”
3. God, in the process of pain, is molding and approving certain  
features of you. You are being justified in pain as righteous. It  
proves who you are

### **E. Hope – Greek word is elpis**

1. expectation of what is sure (elpo [v] = to anticipate or welcome)
2. Knowing (when you know, you are able to handle different  
obstacles)

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### III. The Benefits of Suffering for You

A. Humility (everyone suffers, but there are levels of suffering)

B. Submission & Reliance to God

C. Deeper Relationship to God

1. 2 Cor. 1.3-4a – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, **who consoles us in all our affliction**

2. Matt. 5.3 – **blessed are the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the

Kingdom of Heaven

3. Ex. 34.6 – The Lord, the Lord, **a God merciful and gracious,**

**slow to anger**, and **abounding in steadfast love** and faithfulness

4. Psalm 34.18 – The Lord is **close to the brokenhearted** and **saves**

**those who are crushed in spirit**

D. Effective Service to Others (in church and in the world)

1. 2 Cor. 1.4b – so that we may be able to console those who are in

any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are  
consoled by God.

2. God needs servants not to sympathize, but to empathize