

# Suffering

## [James 1:2-4](#)

One way of describing suffering is to say that suffering comes from the removal of the human happiness. You can see, then, that if a person possesses God's joy (+H), the loss of human happiness is much more tolerable.

Suffering occurs by several means in human life, both for Christians and unbelievers, including the following:

- Suffering by loss of health - physical pain, illness, accident, loss of function, etc.
- Suffering by privation – the lack of something necessary such as food, shelter, clothing, transportation.
- Suffering from the weather – freezing weather or hot, storms, tornados, hurricanes, blizzards, as well as earthquakes, volcanoes.
- Suffering from mental anguish - worry, sorrow, anguish, fears, phobias, bitterness, jealousy, not the least of which is "suffering by anticipation."
- Suffering from justice, the long arm of the law, deserved or undeserved.
- Suffering caused by other people. If there are two people in the same location...

The following is a list of reasons why believers in fellowship suffer undeservedly in order to bring blessing to themselves or others.

1. Suffering for the glory of God: [Book of Job](#); [Isa. 48:9-11](#)
2. Suffering to comfort others: [2 Cor.1:3-6](#)
3. Suffering to demonstrate the power of God, the provisions of grace: [2 Cor.12:8-10](#)
4. Suffering from spiritual growing pains; the testing that strengthens faith: [Deut. 8:1-10](#); [James 1:1-6](#); [1 Pet. 1:7, 8](#); [Rom. 5:3](#)  
Faster growth means more frequent testing; there is a refining process: [Job 23:10](#); [Isa. 1:18-27](#); [1 Pet. 1:7](#)
5. Suffering to keep down pride: [2 Cor. 12:6, 7](#); [Matt. 26:31-75](#) (the scattering of the disciples)
6. Suffering to illustrate doctrine (for advanced believers: [Book of Hosea](#))
7. Suffering by association occurs when we have some relationship with someone who is suffering: [Rom. 14:7](#); [1 Cor. 12:26](#); [1 Chron. 21](#)
8. Suffering to show the fruit of the Spirit and the results of edification: [2 Cor. 4:6-11](#)
9. Suffering to learn the value of doctrine: [Psalm 119:65-72](#)
10. Suffering as a witness to Christ: [2 Tim. 2:8-12](#); [John 15:18-21](#); [Acts 5:40-42](#); [1 Cor. 4:9-16](#)
11. Suffering as a result of exercising a spiritual gift; illustrated by the life of the Apostle Paul
12. Suffering from involvement in spiritual battles, the angelic conflict: [Eph. 3:8-13](#) PROMISES TO BELIEVERS WHO SUFFER  
[Psalm 34:19, 20](#); [Isa. 43:2](#); [2 Cor.4:17 and 12:9](#); [1 Peter 5:10](#)