

## RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING

**Request:** “I read the following statement that caught my attention for a Tuesday night study – “You may not be able to control what happens TO you, but you can control what happens IN you.”

**Once you find yourself in the midst of the control of the storm, the first step is to not allow the storm inside (read Luke 8:22-25) – “Master, Master, we are perishing!” (8:24) [Fear] “And He said to them, where is your faith?” (8:25) [Faith cycle – 1 Pet.1: 6-7]**

- How do we know the storm was inside them?
- How could they have kept the storm outside them?
- Who controlled the storm on the outside?

**Peter wrote the book of First Peter on the subject of righteous suffering:** “But if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled.” (3:14)

**The second initial step in the midst of suffering is to properly diagnose it doctrinally:** “For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.” (3:17) Peter is teaching that a believer can suffer for what is right or for what is wrong.

“Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” (4:19; 4:12-19)

If the believer is suffering according to the will of God, would he be suffering “for what is right” or “for what is wrong?”

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING.</b>
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### 1. There are three categories of suffering in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

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|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| • Self-induced misery  | (SIM) | Prov.14: 30; 27:4; Matt.6: 25-34. |
| • Divine discipline    | (D/D) | Heb.12: 5-12; 1 Cor.11: 28-32.    |
| • Undeserved suffering | (U/S) | 1 Pet.2: 19-21; 3:15-17; 4:12-19. |

**Explain how undeserved suffering turned into self-induced misery in the story of Luke 8:22-25 (danger, drown, distress, promise? (default in faith cycle).**

### 2. Spiritual advancing believers of all dispensations have experienced undeserved suffering (righteous suffering) because of the angelic conflict.

Job is an example of this principle (James 5:10-11; Example; Endured; End).

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” (Job 1:6; 2:1).

**3. Undeserved suffering reminds the spiritual advancing church age believer of the intensity of the angelic conflict.**

“Although He was Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.” (Heb.5: 8) “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.” (1 Pet.2: 21)

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:19)

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33; Rom.5: 3-5)

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, ‘Who art Thou, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’” (Acts 9:4-5)

Paul had a thorn in the flesh as U/S. “And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me. [to keep me from exalting myself!] (2 Cor.12: 7-10)

**4. Undeserved suffering is a normal part of CWL in the church age.**

“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Righteous Suffering).” (Phil.1:29; Rom.8:17; 2 Cor.1:5)

“And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Tim.3: 12; 2 Thess.1: 4-5)

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the suffering of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.” (1Pet.4: 12-13)

“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” (Phil.3: 10; 1 Cor.12: 26)

U/S is suffering for the sake of righteousness and divine blessings (1 Pet.3: 14). “But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.” (1 Pet.4: 16)

**5. The Crown of Life will be awarded believers who have persevered Undeserved Suffering faithfully.**

“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12; 5:11)

“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev.2: 10; 2 Cor.5: 10) [JSC]

**THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN TIME WILL WEAR THE CROWN OF LIFE  
THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.**