

## Theology of Suffering

Solid foundations enable us to survive crises with minimal damage!

1. Our Cultural View of Suffering spectrum questions
2. **What do these verses teach us about God's character and relationship with us?**

Romans 8:35-39 God still loves us

2 Peter 3:9-10 God is all-powerful

Psalms 34:18 God suffers with us and feels our pain

Genesis 6:5-6 God hates evil and injustice

Matthew 9:35-36 Jesus looks for us when we are suffering and has pity on us

I John 4:9-10 God loved us so much he sacrificed his Son for us.

3. **What do the scriptures tell us about the origin of suffering in the world?**

Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Gen 3:1-24, Rom 5:12

Satan rebelled against God and tries to get us to rebel. Lk 22:31, 1Pet 5:8-9, Jn 8:44

God gives us freedom to choose to obey Him or not. Mt 23:37b, Rom 3:10-18

Suffer because of others. I Pet 2:20-22, 3:14-18

4. **How has God use suffering in your life?**

Purify our faith I Pet 1:6-7, Jas 1:2-4

Turns evil into good Joseph, Jesus

Comforts us in our suffering so we can comfort others. 2 Cor 1:3-5, Ps 119:50,92

5. **Why is it difficult to believe in God's goodness when we suffer?**

Some teachings

Only hear about God's anger and judgment

If we are told that suffering means we haven't done enough to please God

If we are taught that God promises prosperity for everyone who believes

When we do not do things that help our faith grow strong

When the church does not speak out against evil and injustice

Childhood experiences

6. **What is Paul's perspective on Suffering?**

Romans 8:18, 23 nothing compared to the glory

II Corinthians 4:16-18 inner person being restored

Philippians 1:21-23 living is Christ dying is gain

Philippians 3:8-11 suffered the loss of all things to gain Christ

II Timothy 1:12 suffer for the gospel...not ashamed

II Timothy 4:6-8 poured out as a drink offering...fought the good fight

II Timothy 4:18 the Lord will rescue me