

Romans 5:3-5
Sanctified Suffering

Facing trials ...

I. Suffering

- A. Common
- B. Christian
- C. Constructive

II. Sanctified

- A. God's Will
 - 1. Sovereignty
 - 2. Love
 - 3. Wisdom
- B. God's Work
- C. Growth in Grace
 - 1. Endurance: necessary tension
 - 2. Character: trusting / humility / gracious
 - 3. Hope

... in the light of God's love.

Children, listen ...

1. Do Christians face the same kinds of sorrows as everyone else?
What are some sorrowful things?
2. Should Christians expect to suffer for belonging to Jesus?
3. If so, what are some ways Christians might suffer for their faith?
4. Does God use suffering in our life to bring us closer to Him?
5. What kinds of things will help you trust God more when you face trials that come in life?

Profiting from Pressure

When life is good and it is easy to go with the flow. But what happens when the tide turns and things get rough. We not only have to be prepared to face trials and tribulations with a firmly founded faith in the Lord, but we must be ready to have that very same faith strengthened through testing. The regular means of grace, prayer, the Word, worship, the sacraments and fellowship are absolutely essential for facing all sorts of life's challenges with trust in the Lord and courage. But the end result of such trials, especially those that come from persecution as Christians, is not just surviving or making it through, but actually growing in grace and coming out "on the other end" more mature in our Christian development. So be firmly founded in the essentials of our faith and be prepared to grow as you face both the challenges of life in this fallen world as well as the challenges you face for your precious faith in Christ. And know through it all that it is your sovereign, loving and all wise God Who is ultimately working in you what is pleasing in His sight.

*Every joy or trial falleth from above,
traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.
We may trust him fully all for us to do;
they who trust him wholly find him wholly true.
- Frances Havergal 1874*