



**DON'T
JUDGE ME.
I WAS BORN
TO BE
Awesome
NOT PERFECT.**

Suffering

Why?



Suffering

What God is like

What the Bible says

Why suffering?

What the Bible says

Where do we go from here?



Introduction

- Suffering will make us **bitter or better**
 - We can blame others
 - We can blame God
 - He is all powerful
 - Why not stop it?
 - How can he let this happen to me?
- Or we can remember what God is doing



What is God like?

- He is love
 - 1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- He knows everything about us
 - Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be
- He works for our good
 - Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose



Remembering

- The importance of **Ebenezer**
 - 1 Sam 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, **“Thus far the Lord has helped us.”**
- **Remembering**
 - Lam 3:21 **Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:**
 - 22 Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
 - 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.



Romans 5

New International Version (NIV)

- 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.
- 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.



Sufferings

- What are sufferings:-
 - Martin Lloyd Jones Says
 - Tribulations can be:-
 - Afflictions
 - Pressure
 - Stresses
 - Difficulties
 - Illnesses
 - Persecutions
 - Can take almost any form



Perseverance

- Not passive resistance
 - Not grinning and bearing with it
- Not stoicism
- Not a stiff upper lip, sticking at it, nor taking it
- No but **we also glory in our sufferings**
- Note the word **“in”**
- Not despite them but in the middle of suffering



Perseverance

- Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name
 - Persecuted
 - Put in jail
 - Threatened with death
- Counted worthy



Character

- God loves you just as you are
- ... but he wants to make you like Christ
- And this is the process
 - It is not fun in itself
 - But it produces character



Hope

- 2 Cor 12:9 But he said to me (Paul), **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me



The Steps

1. Remember what God is like
2. Raise an **Ebenezer**
3. Remember what God is doing for you
4. Praise him for his goodness
 - Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
5. Accept his will
6. Accept his grace



So do we accept it and do nothing?

NO have you not been listening?

We approach God and seek healing



Putting into practice

What is your issue?

Please share with the group if you can

Pray for each other that God will do what he loves
doing and heal

