

Nine Basic Reasons Why We Suffer

1. Sometimes we suffer because of soil evil – the curse on the ground as a result of Adam and Eve’s sin, resulting in all sorts of natural disasters (Genesis 3:17, Romans 8:20–22, Job 1:19)
2. Sometimes we suffer as a result of situational evil – a malfunction of man-made items (Luke 13:4-5)
3. Sometimes we suffer as a result of sickness – physical ailments and issues that limit or cause discomfort in the natural movement and function of the body (Mathew 9:12)
4. Sometimes we suffer as a result of the sin of self – disobedience to God in all aspects of life (Galatians 6:7-8, Psalm 38:1-18)
5. Sometimes we suffer as a result of the sin of others – disobedience of others resulting in negative consequences in your life (Psalm 119:161, 1 Samuel 26:17-25)
6. Sometimes we suffer as a result of Satan – the enemy seeking to kill, steal and destroy (Luke 22:31)
7. Sometimes we suffer as a result of coming to salvation – the flesh, the world and devil seeking to keep one from embracing the salvation of Jesus Christ through some sort of pain or distress (1 Thessalonians 1:5-7)
8. Sometimes we suffer as a result of pursuing sanctification – pain or distress that has come to motivate biblical change or as a result of biblical change (Hebrews 12:11, 1 Peter 4:1-3)
9. Sometimes we suffer as a result of serving – being used by God as a vessel of honor to be productive for the advancement of His kingdom in all aspects (2 Timothy 4:14-15, Matthew 5:11-12)

The Precept and Pain of Righteousness (v13-v17)

- A. While persecution for Christ is a potentially real danger, and perhaps even inevitable from time to time, it is not to be expected at every turn as one with zealously pursues right living with God (v13-v14).¹
- B. If and when one does suffer for right living for Christ, they are to consider it a blessing, because suffering for right living for Christ is a sign of God's favor and evidence of one's salvation (v14, Matthew 5:10).²
- C. Don't allow those people who are seeking to take something from you or do something to you as a result of you living for the Lord to become a preoccupation of your mind, leading to a soul distracted and troubled by worry of what they have threatened to take from you or do to you (v14).
- D. Instead, give reverence to your Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that you will be guided through the suffering for righteousness sake unto some form of blessing/deliverance on this side and an inheritance in heaven that you are protected by faith to have when the Lord returns for you, as well as rewards for suffering for righteousness sake (v15).
- E. You should also always be ready to explain in a humble and respectful manner to anyone who asks about the hope of your salvation to come (v15).
- F. Keep your mind, mouth, and manner right in the areas you are being slandered and reviled, so that your conscience will not convict you of sin. Prove yourself faithful to God in the area of condemnation resulting in leading the naysayers to be proven as liars as the consistency of your obedience plays itself out to God's glory and your benefit (v16).
- G. It is better for you if God allows you to suffer for doing right as opposed to you suffering for doing wrong, because you know God's sovereignty, wisdom, and love for you is working through that suffering to bring about what is glorifying to God, blessing to others, and beneficial to you. There is no benefit to suffering for doing wrong (v17).

¹ Karen H. Jobes, "1 Peter" (*Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*) (Kindle Locations 5400-5401). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

² Ibid (Kindle Locations 5413-5414).