

ROOTED

THE SECRETS BEHIND SPIRITUAL GROWTH



THE SECRET OF SUFFERING.

No one wants to suffer. We tend to avoid it at all costs. And when pain inevitably comes, we try to get through it as quickly as possible.

But what if God had more in mind?

As we seek to avoid struggles and sprint through the grieving process, we may be missing out on critical growth and healing. Scripture says hard times can lead to things like perseverance, maturity, strength of character, hope, a closer relationship to God, and even the ability to better comfort others.

So while no one is asking you to purposefully seek out painful situations, when pain *does* come, we can take comfort in the fact that God is doing the healing. We can pause and lean on our church community, knowing there is no need to rush through the process of grief. And we can even rejoice, knowing that God is working in us, growing, teaching, and molding.

IN THE BIBLE.

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 5:1-6

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. 6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. 6 Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. 7 We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What are some of the results of struggles, according to these verses?
- 2.) Think through some of the times you've experienced pain. Looking back, how did you grow from that?
- 3.) How do the verses above say Christians should react to problems? What does that mean? And how can that kind of reaction begin to be a reality for you?
- 4.) Are you struggling today? How can we pray for you?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?