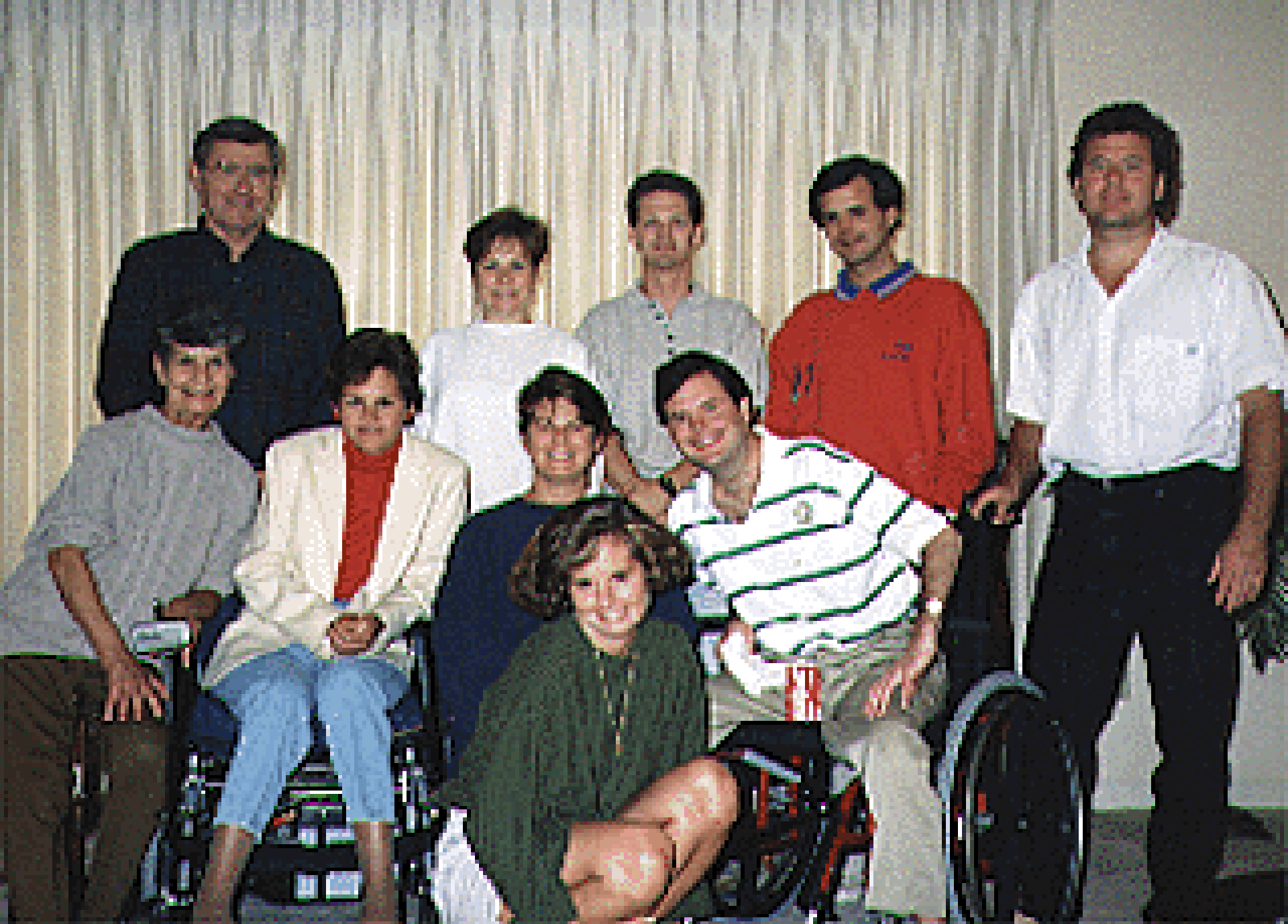




CRU

December 29, 2011

Joy in Suffering



# My Family .....

## Muscular Dystrophy

- Muscles from neck down deteriorate because they can't be fed in order to grow.....

## Multiple Sclerosis

- Nerve fibers in the central nervous system are damaged....





















Home

Bible

Quotes

Stories

Websites

Writings

# Welcome to **Suffering.net**

who Suffer

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[Intro](#) - click "Intro" to read a one paragraph introduction to this website.....



 [Francis Chan - Videos on Suffering](#)

Must Sees - - this guy is so encouraging and motivating!!!

[Crazy Love](#) - Francis Chan speaks with Kirk Cameron in this 11 minute video - - of suffering in our lives!

- [Joy of Suffering](#) - Francis Chan speaks at the 74th Annual 2009 Torrey Memorial Bible Conference about suffering...Check out this 52 minute video - - again, extremely encouraging - - this guy

*“Be still,  
and know  
that I am  
God.”*

*Psalms 46:10*

“When God gets us alone through suffering, heartbreak, temptation, disappointment, or sickness - when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are totally speechless, unable to ask even one question, then He begins to teach us.”

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*



Joy is not the  
absence of suffering.  
It is the presence of God.

When God calls  
us to suffer - -  
He is calling us  
into the  
deepest of joy !

- John Piper

# THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN SUFFERING

## "LOOK TO THE REWARD"

**Consider this response in times of Suffering:**

In times of trouble say:

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<b>Matthew 5:11-12</b>	<b>Romans 8:18</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 4:17</b>	<b>1 Peter 1:6-7</b>	<b>1 Peter 4:13</b>	<b>Phil 3:20 / Phil 1:21</b>
It is great when you are persecuted because of Christ	compare with the glory that is to be revealed to us	producing an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison	Your trials have come so that your faith may be proven to be genuine..... when Jesus Christ is revealed	Rejoice if you share in the sufferings of Christ so that at Christ's revelation you may rejoice with exultation	Our citizenship is in Heaven... To live is Christ; to die is gain

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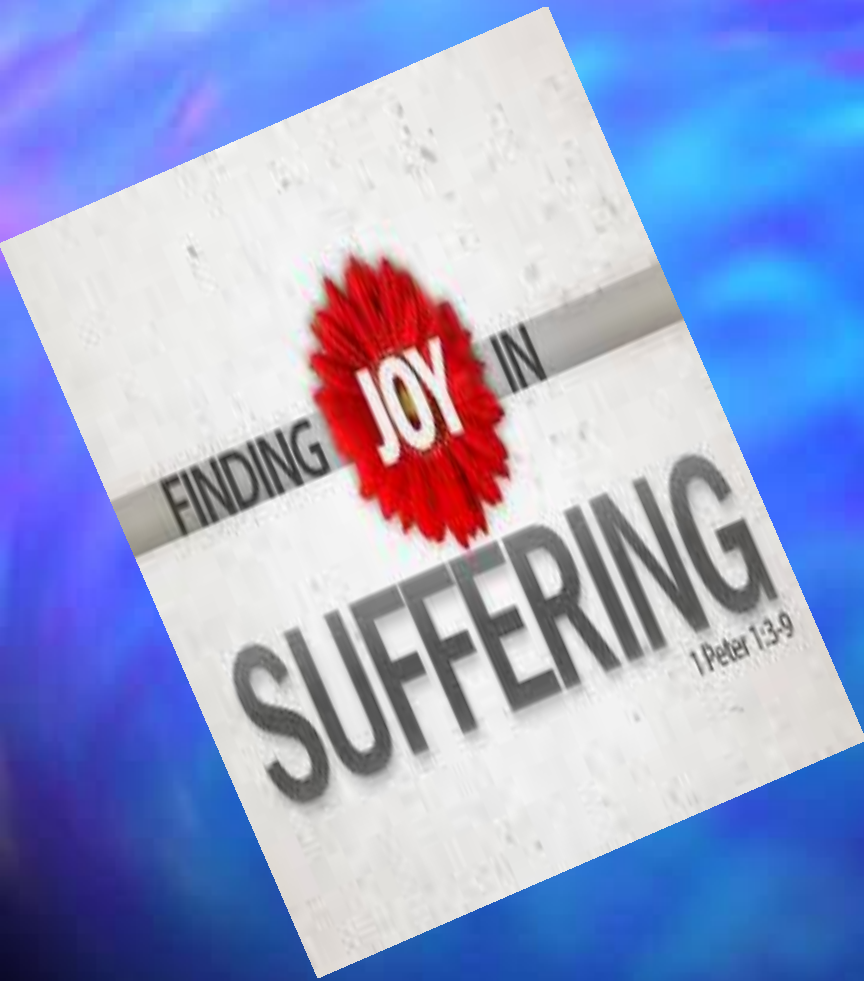
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<b>Psalms 34:1</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 7:4-6</b>	<b>Matthew 5:44</b>	<b>Psalms 119:71</b>	<b>Acts 16:25</b>	<b>Acts 7:59-60</b>	<b>Philippians 4:11</b>
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"Our  
response to  
suffering is an  
accurate  
barometer of  
our soul"

Steven J. Lawson

# How are you doing?

- Fear of the future!
- What do employers really want?
- Stresses involved in completing school work
- Balance – Life/Sleep/Social/School – “I have time for 2”
- Balance – “Work / Friends / Family / School / Groups
- Time management !!!!!

# How are you doing?

- Jealousy and competition with peers
- Dealing with Prof's expectations and styles
- Being away from home
  
- Understanding networking
- How to study and how to learn.....
- Always being broke – no money.....
  
- Budgeting what little I do have....
- “Thought I had to have everything planned out”
- Time for God?

# How are you doing?

- Establishing friendships
- What major?
- Loneliness
  
- Depression
- Abusive and dysfunctional family situations
- Worry about finding a boyfriend/girlfriend



John Piper

“Any suffering that threatens your faith in the goodness of God or tempts you to leave the path of obedience - - as you remain faithful and declare his goodness – you are suffering for Jesus”

**ETERNAL  
PERSPECTIVE**

**DAILY  
PERSPECTIVE**

# How are you responding?

Suffering, with dignity,  
may enable you to mark  
more lives for Christ  
than anything else you  
say or do for Christ.

Bill Hybels, Pastor –  
Willow Creek Church



**DAILY  
PERSPECTIVE**

How did we get to 1.3 Billion  
Christians today - - from only 12  
apostles preaching Christ?.....

The sufferings of the people for  
Christ ! There has never been  
a breakthrough to an unreached  
people without  
suffering



**DAILY  
PERSPECTIVE**

John Piper- Sept 2007 lecture at Wheaton



# THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN SUFFERING

"LOOK TO THE REWARD"

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The  
Christian's  
Response



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**S**

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Do not be surprised at your fiery trials and don't think it's strange when they happen to you-they are for your testing	For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but to suffer for Him	To this you're called, because Christ suffered for you, as an example, that you should follow in his steps	In fact, everyone who wants to live a Godly life will be persecuted	Paul said "I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me"	Paul said, "I will boast in my weaknesses so that Christ's power rests on me"	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me	Paul said, "I delight in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions - For when I am weak, then I am strong"

Psalms 34:1	2 Corinthians 7:4-6	Matthew 5:44	Psalms 119:71	Acts 16:25	Acts 7:59-60	Philippians 4:11
I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will ALWAYS be on my lips	Paul said, "I am filled with comfort, I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation."	Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"	"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn your statutes."	It was about midnight - Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God - and prisoners listened!	During the stoning of Stephen, he fell to his knees and said, "Lord do not hold this sin against them"	Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am in."

# In Times of Trouble, Say.....

First - He brought me here; it is by His will that I am in this difficult place; in that I will rest.

Next - He will keep me here in His love, and give me GRACE in this trial to behave as His child

Then - He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the GRACE He means to bestow

Last - In His good time He can bring me out again - how and when, He knows.

The  
Christian's  
Response



How Do I Do It??



# Our Source of Joy !

You have the creator of the universe as your Lord and friend !

You have the Lord Jesus Christ praying for you in the heavenlies !

You have an eternal inheritance in the Kingdom of God !

You have the riches of glory stored up for you in the heavenlies !

You have the written and inerrant Word of God

# Our Source of Joy !

## ■ We have the Holy Spirit overflowing!

- a New Birth and Life in Christ (John 3:8)
- He will be with us forever! (John 14:16-17)
- Convicts us of sin and righteousness (John 16:7-8)
- Controlled by the HS; not our sinful nature (Rom 8:9)
- Intercedes for us in prayer and weakness (Rom 8:26)
- The Guarantor of our inheritance (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Transforming us to his likeness with ever increasing glory (2 Cor 3:18)
- Varying gifts !!! (2 Cor 12:4-11)
- Incredible fruit !!!! (Gal 5:22)

# Our Source of Joy !

## *Holy Spirit*

- He Teaches (John 14:26; 1 John 2:27)
- He Witnesses (John 15:26)
- He Searches the thoughts of God as no one else can (1 Cor. 2:11)
- He Intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27)
- He Sanctifies (2 Thess. 2:13)
- He Comforts (John 14:26)
- He Guides (John 16:13)

The  
Christian's  
Response



The Effect !

# Responding with JOY !!!

1. Intimacy with Christ !
2. Eternal Perspective
3. Witnessing Effect
4. Christ-Like !



# THE DIVINE PURPOSE IN SUFFERING

## "LOOK TO THE REWARD"

**Consider this response in times of Suffering:**

In times of trouble say:

First - He brought me here; it is by His will that I am in this difficult place; in that I will rest.

Next - He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child

Then - He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow

Last - In His good time He can bring me out again - how and when He knows.

- Andrew Murray

CHRIST- OUR MODEL	Hebrews 12:2
	Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross

- Questions to Ask Yourself When Suffering**
1. What is God doing here?
  2. What is He teaching me?
  3. What sin is He exposing to me?
  4. How is He drawing me closer to Him?
  5. In what ways is He making me more like Jesus?
  6. How is He preparing me for some future glorious task?
  7. How am I responding to it?
  8. How should I respond to it?
  9. Am I learning from it?
  10. Does my response demonstrate faith, love for God and for others, Christ-like character, values, commitment and priorities?
  11. Can I see ANY WAY God can take the pain in this situation and make something good out of it?

REWARD	James 1:12	Romans 8:35
	Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials; when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life	Nothing (death, life, demons, the present, the future or any powers) can separate us from the love of Christ!

GOD'S PURPOSE	Romans 8:28	Romans 8:29	Genesis 50:20
	God causes all things to work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose	For those God called "Christians" He predestined to become conformed to the image of Christ	Joseph's response to his brothers: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."

GOD'S GIFT	Philippians 4:7	1 Peter 4:14	2 Corinthians 1:3-4	1 Peter 5:8-9
	And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus	If you're reviled for the name of Christ you are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you	The Father of all compassion comforts us in all our troubles, so we can comfort those in trouble	Resist the devil, stand firm in the faith, and God will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast

JESUS SAID .....	John 15:20	2 Corinthians 12:9a	John 16:33	Luke 9:23	Luke 22:31a
	Jesus said, "No servant is greater than his master; if they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."	Jesus said to the suffering Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness"	Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble - But take heart! I have overcome the world"	Jesus said, "Anyone who comes after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"	Jesus: "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail"

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE	Matthew 5:11-12	Romans 8:18	2 Corinthians 4:17	1 Peter 1:6-7	1 Peter 4:13	Phil 3:20 / Phil 1:21
	Rejoice - your reward in heaven is great when you are persecuted because of Christ	Our present sufferings do not compare with the glory that is to be revealed to us	Our momentary, light afflictions are producing an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison	Your trials have come so that your faith may be proven to be genuine..... when Jesus Christ is revealed	Rejoice if you share in the sufferings of Christ so that at Christ's revelation you may rejoice with exultation	Our citizenship is in Heaven... To live is Christ; to die is gain

MY RESPONSE	James 1:2-3	James 1:4	Romans 5:3-4	1 Peter 2:23	1 Thes 5:16-18	Ephesians 6:10-11	Job 1:21
	Respond with pure joy in trials because the testing of your faith produces perseverance.....	Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything	Glorify in your sufferings because suffering produces perseverance, which produces character then hope	A Christlike response - When Jesus suffered, he did not threaten but rather committed Himself to God	Rejoice always; Pray without ceasing; In everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus	Put on the full armor of God so that you are able to stand against the wiles of the Devil	Job said - "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord"

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# Hope for Those Who Suffer

[www.suffering.net](http://www.suffering.net)