

“Do winners really have to suffer?”

Philippians 1:29-30

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Romans 8:17-18

Living/logistic grace, imputed by the justice of God to the righteousness of God in us, includes 4 related categories of blessings:

1. Life support keeps us alive until the moment God has decided to call us home Ps 68:19-20

2. Temporal supply of air, food, shelter, clothing and transportation Matt 6:11, 25-34

3. Security provisions protect us amid the hazards of the devil’s world Heb 1:14; Rom 13:4

4. Spiritual provisions enable us to learn Bible truth and grow to spiritual maturity regardless of human IQ, background or environment Matt 4:4; John 17:17

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus illustrated God’s generosity toward even the most undeserving believer by showing that every common sparrow and lily of the field receives the equivalent of living grace.

Preoccupation with salvation not only blasphemes God but also squanders the grace that God provides for our spiritual growth.

The strong believer is influenced by the Word of God rather than by evil.

He is an island to himself in that he makes all of his own decisions and they are consistently correct before the Lord.

He has the most wonderful capacity for life in all circumstances.

The weak believer rejects Bible instruction, choosing rather to live in rebellion and evil.

He must never be confused with the new believer.

He has erroneous concepts of Christian virtue, emphasizing sincerity, self-righteousness, social panaceas, false morality, self-deprecation and legalism.

Angels learn from observing every Church Age generation.

The virtues of confidence, worship and personal love toward God give the believer strength and happiness, while motivating the virtues of courage, morality and impersonal love toward man.

With supernatural peace and eager longing, the “friend of God”

***(John 15:14 “You are my friends if you do what I command.”)* crosses the bridge from the blessings of time to greater blessings in eternity.**

Although Jesus’ strategic victory guarantees us eternal life and a resurrection body, there is no guarantee of tactical victory in this life or eternal rewards in Heaven.

People who are in this battlefield situation are coming very close to the final objective of maximum glorification of God, distinguishing them from other believers.

There will be no suffering for the believer in eternity *Revelation 21:4.*

We must have pressure for any kind of progress and the catalyst by which you apply truth in your soul to experience is faith-rest and it has to be developed to be strong. Suffering does for us as adults in the school of hard knocks, what our parents did for us in childhood.

Suffering for blessing is another guarantee from God that the believer can and does fulfill the plan of God by advancing to spiritual maturity.

When you suffer, you will never be the same again!

**No one stands still under pressure,
we either move forward or backward.**

The only way the Philippians could see this, was to be right behind Paul in his advance which included intense pressure along the way.

God blesses beyond measure when we are mature enough to appreciate the blessings without being distracted by them!

God's provision for suffering is greater than any pressure of life.

The greater-grace believer is qualified thru biblical truth in his soul to weather any storm of life.

Since dying is the ultimate in suffering;

if we have peace and happiness at the thought of dying, we will have peace and happiness in living.