

“...in the World You have Tribulation”

HELPFUL SCRIPTURES

SERMON NOTES.

1 Timothy 1:12-16

I. “Growing Pains”: 3 Ways God Uses Suffering

A. Suffering Reveals Our Expectations of Earthly Blessings & Comfort

1. Many religious people expect a spiritual *quid pro quo* when they are “living right and being good.”
 - a. No one ever ‘lived right and was as good’ as Jesus.

Philippians 2:6-9

Colossians 3:3

Romans 6:7

Matthew 5:16

James 1:2-4

- b. We learn through our suffering how little we actually deserve

Philippians 3:7-8

Psalm 142:5

B. Suffering Reveals How Conditional Our Love is

1. How sad when we react in anger, defensiveness, or even self-pity to the words and actions of others.
 - a. Now consider how Jesus responded...

Luke 23:28-30

John 19:26-27

- b. The only way possible for us to offer unconditional love to those who hurt us . . .

Luke 6:32

Romans 15:7

Philippians 4:13

C. Suffering Reveals How Much I Desire to be in Control

- 1. When we are suffering, it is an undeniable fact that we are *not* the one who is in control!
 - a. Take it from someone who used to be a huge control freak . . .

Galatians 3:2

Luke 10:41-42

Galatians 3:3

John 14:6

- b. Suffering is the key to unlocking the prison of self-sufficiency (of trying to be our own god), and giving us the freedom to now trust in Jesus

CONCLUSIONS:

Ephesians 1:13

Acts 5:32

Acts 2:38