

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 46: A Reason To Suffer

- This week we're going to be looking at a question that is begged by this this entire scene of Paul going to Jerusalem.
 - **How is that Paul, going in obedience to God to Jerusalem, suffers abuse and imprisonment?**
 - **Do Christian suffer even though they are right in the middle of God's will for their lives?**
 - Since the answer is yes, then the question is "why do believers suffer even though they are doing God's will?"
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Acts 21:8-14

- ✓ Paul goes up to Jerusalem in obedience to the Spirit of God.
 - ✓ He then in obedience to the elders and to God helps some Jewish believers perform their vows to God in the Temple.
 - ✓ As a result of all this, he is attacked by people who intended to kill him.
 - ✓ You may think, **"I thought that if you obeyed God, everything would go well for you and you would prosper".**
 - ✓ You may be unfamiliar with what the Bible tells us in several places **II Timothy 3:12, John 16:33b**
 - ✓ Jesus is the only one who obeyed His Father in everything and look what happened to Him!!!!
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Back to our question: "Why do believers suffer even though they are doing God's will?"

1. We suffer for the purposes of God. **John 9:2**
 - ✓ We exist to bring God glory in our lives.
 - ✓ Paul's imprisonment brought us the books of **Philippians,**
 - ✓ **Ephesians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon** which bring God glory to this day.
 - ✓ **I Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 14:7-8**
 - ✓ Life is short and if you expend it for just yourself, you have truly wasted it.
 - Are you willing to live for the glory of God? That is what you are here for.
 - Are willing to suffer, be lied about, be mistreated if it brings Him glory?
 - How was God glorified in His Son, Jesus? In His death.
 - Jesus says to us, "take up your cross daily and follow Me".
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2. We suffer so we can see ourselves. **James 1:2**

- ✓ Notice: the test is not for God's information but for yours!!!
- ✓ Tough times have a way of introducing us to ourselves.
- ✓ We have a lot of faith in God that has never been tried or put to the test.
- ✓ Trials accomplish that.
- ✓ The apostle Paul had had many of his beliefs tried, but I can assure you he found out even more about The God he had faith in through his over 2-year ordeal.

- **Persecution** may reveal whether you prefer the affirmation of God rather than the approval of men.
 - **Tough financial times** may reveal if you truly believe that God is the one who supplies your needs.
 - **Illness** may reveal whether or not you intend to glorify God not matter what He allows you to go through.
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3. We suffer so we can learn and grow: **James 1:2-3, I Peter 1:6-7**

- ✓ One of the clearest episodes of the godly suffering for doing what is right is in Daniel 3
- ✓ There are some things that can only be learned in a fiery furnace.
- ✓ If you are in the fire right now begging for some relief, remember,
- ✓ God's job is not that of a quick rescue mission but that of purifier!

- ❖ **Never too early, never too late-----always on time!**
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