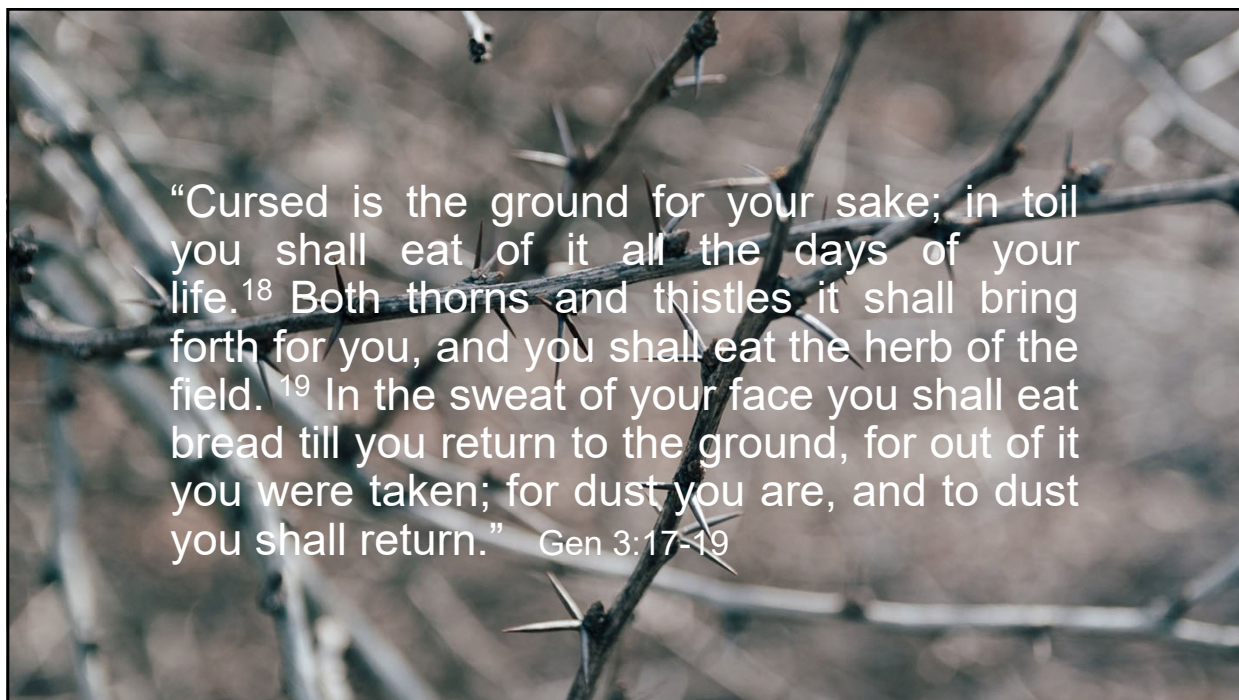




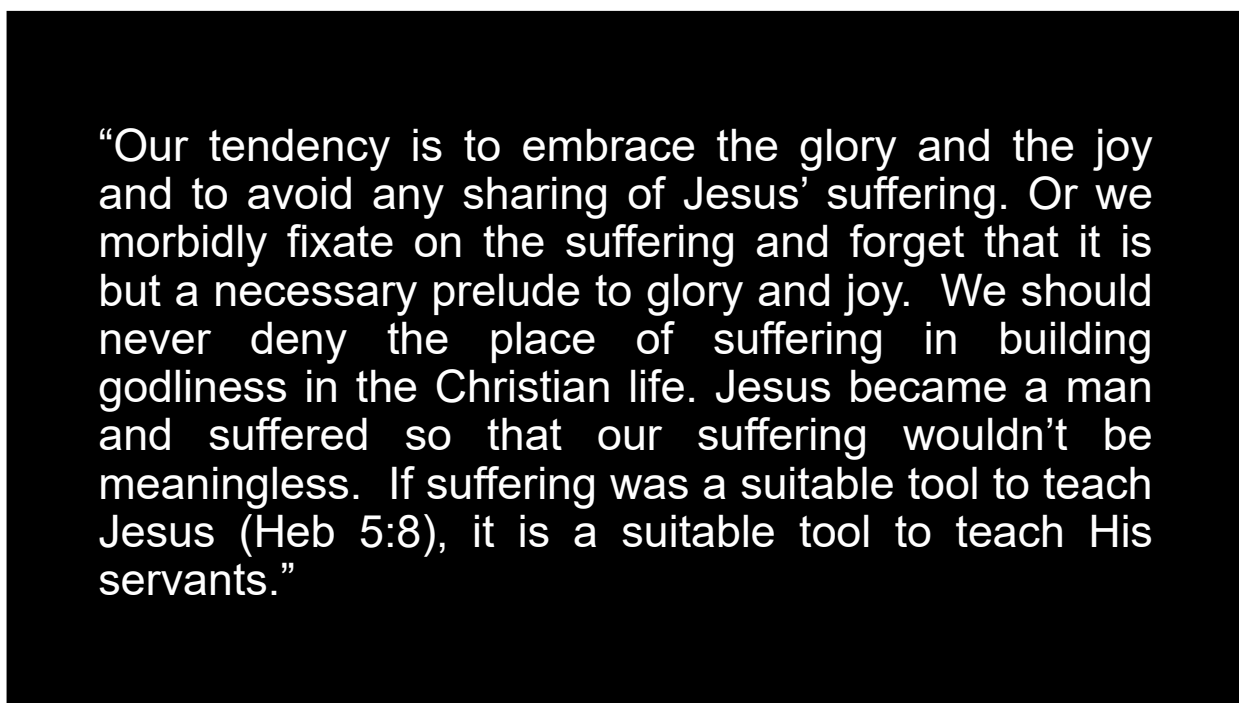
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2



3



4

God had one Son without sin, but  
he never had a son without trial.

5

We do not glorify God **for** suffering.  
But we do glorify Him **in** suffering ...

6

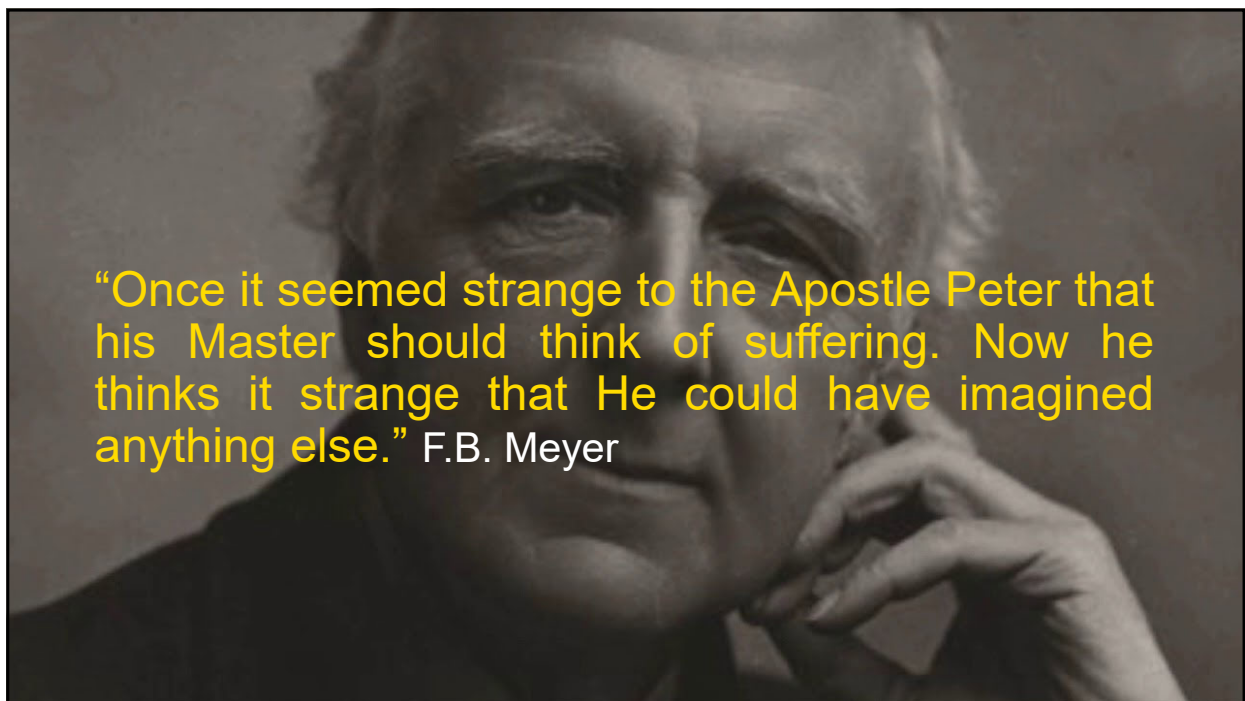
## 1. Probability

**1 Pet 4:12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

Greek – **continually coming into existence**

Strange – **something that does not occur to others**

7



8

**Js 1:2-3** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

9

“Expect suffering, it is inevitable. And God has brought it to test you. It comes on you for your testing, to prove to you the genuineness of the state of your Christianity, to purge your life for greater holiness. It is God’s test to show that you’re really gold. And when the fire has come and gone, you’re still there, non-combustible, pure, refined, purged for greater use to God. So, since God wants you maximally useful, and since He wants you to have your calling in election sure, then He brings suffering inevitably into your life to prove and test the genuineness of your faith. If your faith is not genuine when the test comes, like the seed thrown against the hard soil, you may show some signs of faith, but you will have no fruit and under tribulation, you will wither and die. So, the fiery ordeal will show you the reality of your faith. Expect it, it is inevitable, it is in God’s purpose.” John MacArthur

10

## 2. Purification

“An unmortified spirit is very unfit to bear trials.”

Matthew Henry

11

**Ps 66:10** For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.

**Prov 27:21** The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, and a man is valued by what others say of him.

**Mal 3:3** He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.

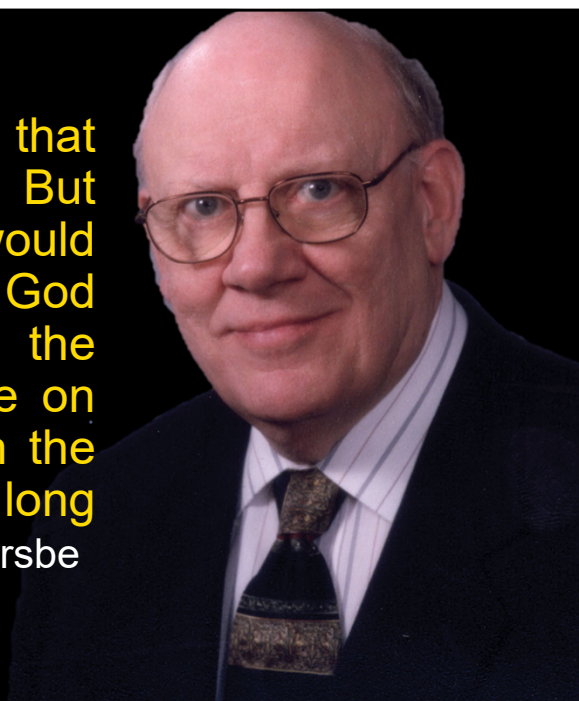
12



**1 Pet 1:6-7** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

13

**“God has never promised that we would miss the storm, But He has promised that we would make the harbor. When God puts His own people into the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. He knows how long and how much.”** Warren Wiersbe



14

"I am afraid that all the grace that I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable. What do I not owe to the crucible and the furnace, the bellows that have blown up the coals, and the hand which has thrust me into the heat? ... I bear my witness that the worst days I have ever had have turned out to be my best days. ... I can bear my personal testimony that the best piece of furniture that I ever had in the house was a cross. I do not mean a material cross; I mean the cross of affliction and trouble. ... In shunning a trial we are seeking to avoid a blessing." Charles Spurgeon

15

**Rev 3:18** I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

**1 Pet 5:10** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

16



### 3. Perspective

We must remember that we are “strangers and pilgrims”

**1 Pet 2:11** Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

**Heb 11:13** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

17

- **Earthly vs. eternal**

**2 Cor 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

18

**1 Tim 6:17** Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in **uncertain riches** but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

**Lk 16:11** Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the **true riches**?

**Heb 11:26** esteeming the reproach of Christ **greater riches** than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

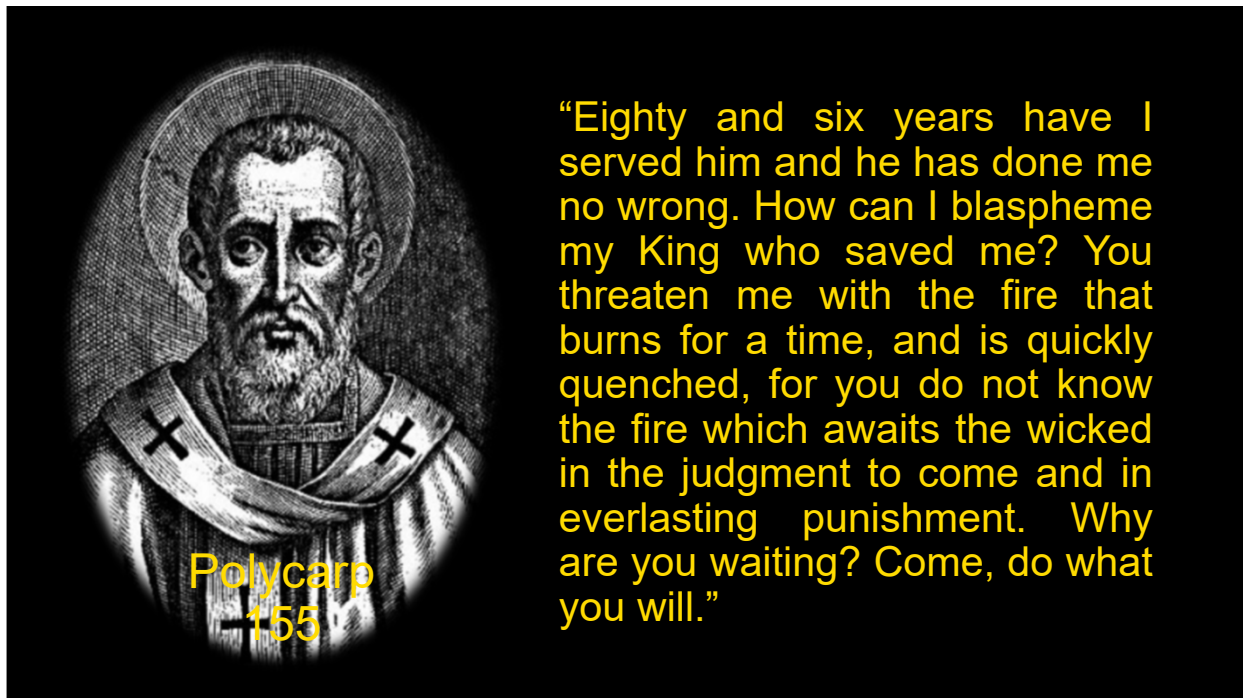
**Phil 4:19** And my God shall supply all your need according to **His riches** in glory by Christ Jesus.

**Heb 6:19** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

19

- Our “sufferings” vs. the “real” sufferings of others

20



21

Early in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Carthage, N. Africa, Vibia Perpetua, 22 yr. old mother of an 8 mo. old infant, was sentenced to be executed for her faith.

"Give out the Word to the brothers and sisters; stand fast in the faith, love one another, and don't let our suffering become a stumbling block to you."

22

"My Lord, Jesus Christ, for my sake, wore a crown of thorns; why should not I then, for His sake, wear this light crown, be it ever so ignominious? Truly I will do it willingly."

"In the truth of the gospel which I preached, I die willingly and joyfully today." The wood was ignited, and Huss died while singing, "Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, have mercy on me."

John Huss  
1415

23

## 4. Perseverance

**Js 1:3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

**Phil 1:12-14** But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; <sup>14</sup> and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

24

“God, help me to love you even if you never answer one of my prayers.  
Help me to trust you even if my enemies continue to beat me all my life.  
And help me to be faithful to you even if I know there will be no reward for me in Eternity.  
Suffering just for the glory of God-that is sublime.  
You cannot go beyond that. That is beauty! That is the ultimate!”