



The "Christ Side" of Suffering

Philippians 1:12-26

(letters from Prison #2)

5-31-20

Purpose gives things meaning, especially difficult things.

1. Suffering is actually a part of the Christian _____.

"But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Acts 9:15, 16, NIV

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Philippians 3:10, 11, NIV

A. We are not called just to suffer _____ we are Christians, but to suffer _____ we are Christians.

"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." Romans 8:17, NIV

2. Enduring suffering displays the reality of _____.

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead." 2 Corinthians 1:8, 9, NIV

A. Suffering/pain makes us _____ God!

B. Suffering/pain endured graciously truly _____
_____ to the reality of the God who enables that.

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV

C. Suffering gives you an _____ with _____ people!

D. Suffering can raise our _____ for sufferers.

E. The point at which you _____ God is the point of contact you have with _____!

Conclusion:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3, 4, NIV

Suffering has a unique ability to open the heart to the _____, mine, and other's as well.