

08 Jul 2018

Preached by Brother Samuel Joseph

Topic: The Christian's Response to Suffering

Scripture text: 2 Corinthians 12:9

1. We face many oppositions and problems in life. This is especially so for Christians. Thankfully, we have the Word of God to teach us how to respond to suffering correctly. God allows suffering for a higher and greater purpose. Suffering may be a consequence of sin and a chastisement of God. Suffering may also be to preserve us from sin or for our testimony and for Christ's sake. For Apostle Paul, God allowed the thorn in the flesh to keep him from pride. We can learn the right response to suffering from Apostle Paul.

2. First, it is a daily reliance on God. God's grace is sufficient. It is a total reliance and we do not need to find another source of help. It means a total submission to God's will. God supplies all our needs. We must not take it for granted, neither should we murmur or complain. It is also a personal reliance as we all receive God's grace individually.

3. Second, it is a deliberate rejoicing. Our weakness is the opportunity for the strength of Christ to be displayed. Out of all the possible responses, some would choose to give up but we can choose to rejoice. This response is unique to believers because believers know God has His purpose. It is an active rejoicing, not resignation. It is an embracing of God's will and not accepting because we have no choice. It is also a knowledgeable rejoicing, not mindless joy. It is based on the Word of God and we can explain to others as part of our witness.

4. God will be glorified in our lives through our response to suffering. We should focus on God and not on ourselves. We must desire the glory of God more than the ending of our sufferings.