

The Value of Suffering
II Corinthians 4:7-15

Review:

1. Suffering makes our weakness obvious, and thus gives us an opportunity to glorify God's power when He gives us relief.
2. Suffering can increase our faith in God, as we hope for His salvation.
3. Suffering gives us the best chance to reveal the character of Christ to the world..

Go further and Apply: Read Psalm 116

1. In verse 1 why does the psalmist say he loves the Lord? How does this fact alone give us comfort in our sufferings?
2. In verse 2, why does the psalmist say he continues to call on the Lord? How has your experience of God strengthened your desire to pray?
3. In verses 3 and 4, the psalmist describes his problems and how he cried out to God. What sort of problems have moved you to similar prayers? How has God answered those prayers?
4. What three things does the psalmist say about God in verses 5 and 6? How might meditating on these things comfort us during our sufferings?
5. In verses 6 through 8, the psalmist describes how God has saved him from his troubles. How has God brought rest to your soul while you were still in difficulties?
6. In verse 9, the psalmist says he expects to walk before the Lord in the land of the living. What does this tell us about the kind of salvation he expects? What might this also tell us about the way he intends to live after the point that God saved him?
7. Read verse 11. Have you ever become similarly impatient during times of suffering?
8. In verses 12-14 and 17-19, how does the psalmist say he will respond to God's gracious salvation? In what ways can we respond to God's grace in our lives?
9. In verse 15, it might be better to translate the word "precious" as "costly." What does this verse tell us about how much value God places on His people?
10. What does verse 16 tell us about our relationship to God? How does this knowledge help us in our sufferings?