

August 25, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Rom. 5:3-4 *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.* (NIV)

There is something that we must go through to grow. It is called discipline. Now I know that most people don't want to be disciplined. Hebrews tells us that it is not pleasant at the time. In fact, of all the whippings I got while I was growing up, I can't remember ever thinking after one of them, 'wow, that was pleasant; I can't until my next one.' Nope, my mom made sure that I remembered exactly why I got the discipline. Paul goes one step further here by saying that we should glory in our sufferings or discipline. This is when it begins to make sense in a spiritual capacity. The suffering, although it may hurt for a while, will bring about the end result that the LORD is looking for in our lives. And let me tell you from experience. If we don't learn from the trial the first time, He will take us through it again until we do. Why? Because He is making and molding us into the likeness of His Son. That means that I have a long way to go, but I'm closer than I've ever been. **Heb. 12:7** *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?* (NIV)

Now Paul reminds us of the end result of this discipline or suffering. It produces perseverance. The Greek word here is **upomone** which means *to remain behind, patiently waiting for a result, being steadfast and not wavering*. This is a picture of our Father. He is patiently waiting for us to realize that all we need is Him. He has shown us this in so many ways. He is not trying to force us to love Him, but I'm sure that He desires for us to know that love in a personal way. That is why He is so very patient with us. This perseverance then produces character. The Greek word is **dokime** which means *the process and outcome of a trial*. In essence Paul is saying, it is not enough to know about this process, but we must learn from it. What good is it if we say we believe, but then do nothing about it?

Dear LORD, we need You help today to make it through whatever it is that we need to go through to become more like Your Son. Thank You for the trials and the suffering and the discipline, because You are proving us through the fire. Jesus Name, Amen