

# EDGE GOD IN

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Championing Human Potential in Christ

Podcast 45: How to Flip Suffering into Courageous Victory in Christ

*Dear Lord, we are blind to the power of suffering in our lives. So much so that we seek out ways to destroy that which causes us to suffer. We give you permission to transform our understanding of suffering as it relates to the wisdom of those who have gone before you and after your death and resurrection. Those who lived and died in faith, believing in, relying on and trusting in YOU as their hope and redeemer over circumstance. Help us to release the fear around the very experience that delivered salvation into this world: suffering and persecution. Strengthen our weak minds and hearts that are too often ruled by the worldly ways rather than your will and death to self. Resurrect the power of the Spirit within us, the very Spirit that rose your dead, scourged body from the grave. Too often we give ourselves authority and permission to do what we feel is rightfully ours to do. Forgive us for taking into our own hands the power of life and death. Teach us the power of a surrendered life to be used for your purposes which far outweigh momentary trials and tribulations we face on this earth-bound journey. Forgive us for forgetting that we are created by you, in you for your glory. This day YOU SET before us life and death, blessings and curses help us dear God to choose LIFE in you that we may LIVE in you for you and your glory.*

*“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”*

*Deuteronomy 30:19-20*

## Jesus' Experience with Suffering:

*He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

*Isaiah 53:3*

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirit 1 Peter 3:18-19*

## How to Flip Suffering into Courageous Victory in Christ

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12

*And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:17*

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

*James 1:12*

*In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*

*2 Timothy 3:12*

**Persecuted:** To subject someone to hostility and ill-treatment.

**Suffering:** To tolerate

**Tolerate:** allow the occurrence of something that one does not like without interference. To accept or endure with forbearance.

**Faith:** Believe in, Rely on and Trust in God.

**Faith:** Complete trust or confidence in God. To give God more authority than your circumstance. To believe that God is able to bring about a greater good in your life and the lives of those around you than had the suffering or hardship never occurred.

### What is the upside of suffering in this life as a follower of Christ?

1. It produces perseverance and confidence to handle the hardships of life.
2. Gives people the opportunity to serve, comfort and care for others
3. Creates perseverance, character and hope
4. Unites us to Christ's suffering and resurrection
5. Proves the genuineness of your faith resulting in praise, glory & honor when Christ is revealed

### What do the scriptures say about the value of suffering?

It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. Psalm 119:71

**Suffering from St. Paul's Perspective as inspired by God:** Paul describes his suffering in detail in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 Paul refers to his many sufferings as light and momentary troubles in 2 Corinthians 4:17. Paul used his sufferings to contemplate and write about the resurrected life in Christ.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Colossians 1:24 *Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians while in prison*

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

Philippians 3:10

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:17

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Hebrews 2:10

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the

joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-4

**Suffering from St. Peter's Perspective as inspired by God:** *Peter was crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to die in the same way Jesus died. Peter also was the one who jumped in to try to prevent Jesus' suffering, which resulted in the salvation of the world:*

**From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Matthew 16:21-33**

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:6-7

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:19-21

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.

1 Peter 4:1-2

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5: 10

**Memory Verses to Boost Your Confidence in God's faithfulness to you in the eye of the storm:**

*With EVERY Storm, Jesus comes too.*

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:2

The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.

Psalm 34:19

Not by might, not by power but by my Spirit says the Lord.

Zechariah 4:6

I will fight your battle, you have only to be still.

Exodus 10:10

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Consider yourself fortunate when all kinds of tribulations and trials come your way...for if by faith you succeed in these trials you are left with the ability to endure.

James 1: 2-4

Everyone who is begotten (brought into existence) of God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

**My one Thing I will focus on this week to Edge God In:**

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**Surround yourself with people who make you a better person in life**

