



ROOTED

**Connect with God
Connect with the church
Connect to your purpose**
Fall 2018 Message series

Today's Topic: Where Is God In Suffering

When you faced a time of suffering and sorrow, did you come out of it with a greater understanding of God?

Which do you more identify yourself with, a suffering saint or an unscathed Christ-follower?

In the Universal church there is an absence of teaching on the presence and role of suffering in the Christian life. When we don't talk about suffering I believe we forget to trust God. We fail to encourage each other to prepare for persecution and suffering. Then when suffering happens a believer can experience a true crisis of faith that accompanies suffering when it happens to them.

As unpleasant as it is, suffering is normal. Therefore it should be a part of our everyday conversations. Something worth praying for every day.

Where is God in the midst of suffering? He's everywhere. He is "with us!" He is always with us in the most greatest times of need. God is there for us to cling to and He strengthens us and we must trust Him. God is in the midst of suffering! His Word is startlingly realistic when it comes to the problem of suffering and enduring it.

Isaiah 54:10; *Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*

Suffering is expected. *"Being a follower of Christ is not a foolproof insurance policy against the storms in life."*



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How do we explain the problem of suffering? Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they didn't listen and the first recorded sin entered the world. God responded with separating Himself from people subjecting both mankind and the physical world to corruption and decay. As a result, sin has caused suffering indirectly and directly.

Why doesn't God end all sin and evil immediately, since He didn't create it? To end sin and evil God would have to destroy the cause of it, which is people. God has a greater plan for people. 1 Timothy 2:3-4 says; *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

How do we prepare for suffering? Two key points:

First, believe with all your heart and trust that God is omniscient. He knows all, He knows our hearts, our ways, our thoughts and He knows our sufferings, sin and afflictions.

Second believe that God loves you. He has provided away out of sin. He provides hope, He heals and restores. But we must do our part by surrendering to God! 1 Peter 5:6-7; *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

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