

**“GOD’S THOUGHTS & GOD’S WAYS;
PART 5; SUFFERING, TRIALS AND TROUBLE”**

DESTINED FOR SUFFERING:

- Our lives will have trouble, suffering, trials, pain and persecution (Jn. 16:33; Ac. 14:22; 1Thes. 3:1-4; 2Tim. 3:12; 1Pet. 4:1,12; Ja. 1:2; Ps. 90:10).
 - No one is excluded.

WHY WE SUFFER?

- The legacy of sin.
 - Because of our own sins (Is. 66:4; Jer. 25:7; Ro. 6:23; Gal. 6:7-8; 1Pet. 4:15).
 - Because of the sins of others.
 - Because of national sin.
 - Because of the curse of sin over all Creation (Ro. 8:18-21).
- To help us develop Godly character (Is. 48:10; Dan. 12:10; Ro. 5:3; Heb 12:11).
- To test (strengthen) our faith (Mt. 13:21; Ja. 1:3-4; 1Pet. 1:7).
- Follow Christ’s example (1Pet. 2:21).
- To receive a present blessing & reward (Is. 61:8; 1Pet. 3:9,14; Mt. 5:10).
- To experience more of God’s power (Phil. 3:10).
- To destroy the power of sin (1Pet. 4:1).
- To receive God’s comfort and have compassion for others (2Cor. 1:3-6).
- To receive a future reward (Mt. 5:12; 2Cor. 4:17; Heb. 10:34).

HOW TO RESPOND:

- If we suffer because of sin ... repent and turn to God
 - No reward for suffering as a result of sin (1Pet. 2:20; 4:15).
- Do not be afraid (Ps. 49:5; 2Tim. 4:5).
- Rejoice! (Ac. 5:41; Ro. 5:3; 2Cor. 12:10; Ja. 1:2; 1Pet. 4:13).
- Consider it a privilege! (Phil. 1:29; 1Pet. 4:16).

- Be joyful! (1Thess. 1:6; Heb. 10:34).
- Endure, be patient and remain faithful (Ro. 12:12; 2Cor. 6:4; 2Thess. 1:4; Heb. 10:32; Ja. 5:10; Rev. 2:3).
- Sympathize with others (2Cor. 12:10; Heb. 13:3).
- Pray (Ro. 12:12; Ja. 5:13).
- Don't focus on your suffering or trouble (2Cor. 4:18).
- Always leave room for God's justice (Ro. 12:19-21).
 - Never take your own revenge.
 - Bless others when they mistreat you or are unfair.
 - Rejoice when others persecute you (Mt. 5:10-12).

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

- God is watching how you respond to your suffering & trouble.
 - What kind of fruit is coming out of it?
 - Are you becoming better or bitter?