

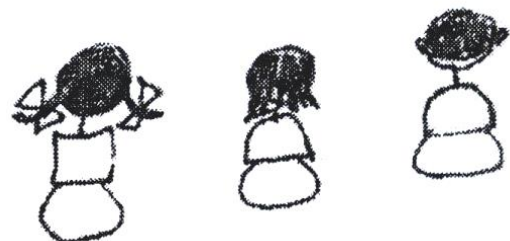
We Will Suffer,
But Just for a Little While!

Sequel to Jesus Christ Suffered.

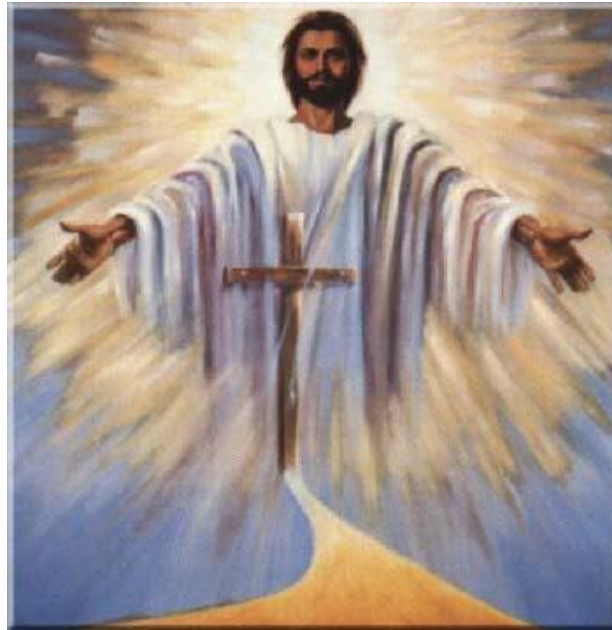
Believers, don't let the word *suffering* scare you! God takes the scary part away because He is always with us! In this world we will have some suffering, but God never allows more than we can handle **when we use His power and His thinking**. Sometimes it will be physical suffering, like having a broken leg. A physical ouch! Other times it will be mental suffering, like someone saying mean things to us. A mental ouch! He teaches us the way to handle both types of suffering; His solutions are found in the Bible. God allows suffering to happen so we **will rely on Him and His thinking**. It is only scary when we don't rely on God and His thinking found in the Bible!



Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.



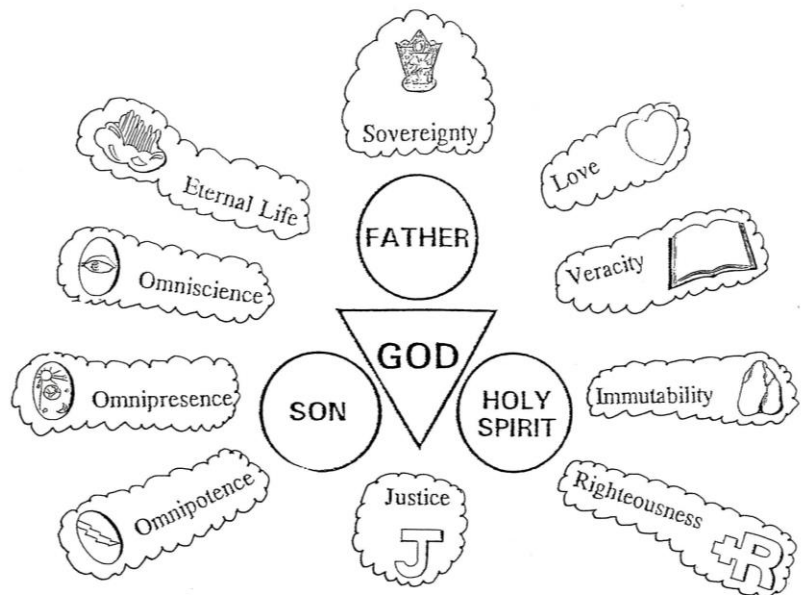
Jesus said in John 15:20, *"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."* Since Jesus our Master suffered, we will also. We are certainly not greater than He is! God wants to make us grow spiritually, not to beat us down. He knows that through suffering He can grow us into the image of Jesus Christ, our Master. Now that's awesome! He wants His best for us! God is teaching us to rely on His love, grace and power to get us through tough times! That's exactly what Jesus Christ did! Look where it got Him!



Now having to suffer in order to grow spiritually may seem a little strange. Well it is strange by the thinking of the world. However, God's ways are not our human ways and God's thoughts are not our human thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways." Declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

God, not us nor the world, knows what will work to grow us into His spiritually adult children. God is all-knowing and all-powerful! His complete divine nature is amazing! He wants us to **have faith in Him and the way He is growing us!**

God's Divine Nature



Our God is an awesome God!



We can either rely on God and His grace or we can rely on our flesh. (The word "flesh" is used to mean the reality of sin in our physical bodies.) We can choose to obey God as our Master or sin as our master. I've tried both ways and believe me, I bombed out when I relied on sin as my master! (OUCH) I doubled, maybe even tripled my suffering! Instead of thinking about who I am in Jesus I went to who I am in myself - powerless to fight the flesh. After I couldn't take it anymore, I cooperated with God the Holy Spirit. He brought me back to the Scriptures of who I am in Christ! He gave me the power to live as who I am in Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.



Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.



1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while... God created time for us. He doesn't need it. *2 Peter 3:8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.* So, in our eyes, suffering for a little while could be different than it is in God's eyes! However, when you think of eternity, which goes on **forever**, a few years of suffering when using God's help is "a little while". He knows that sometimes we feel like our suffering is going on forever. He has also taught us that with His help we can endure it and learn from it. We learn how His grace comes through for us again and again and **again!**

...the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Eternity



1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

“The God of all grace” will carry us through our suffering and tears! We are always to look to Jesus Christ first. We are to see how He made it through His sufferings; He used the power of God the Holy Spirit and Scripture. The love and grace of God the Father was *poured* into Him. Even though He suffered, the God of all grace, His Father, took care of His every need! Remember, we are in union with Christ! Just as God our Father took care of Jesus' every need, He will take care of our every need! God is on our side! He just wants us to endure!

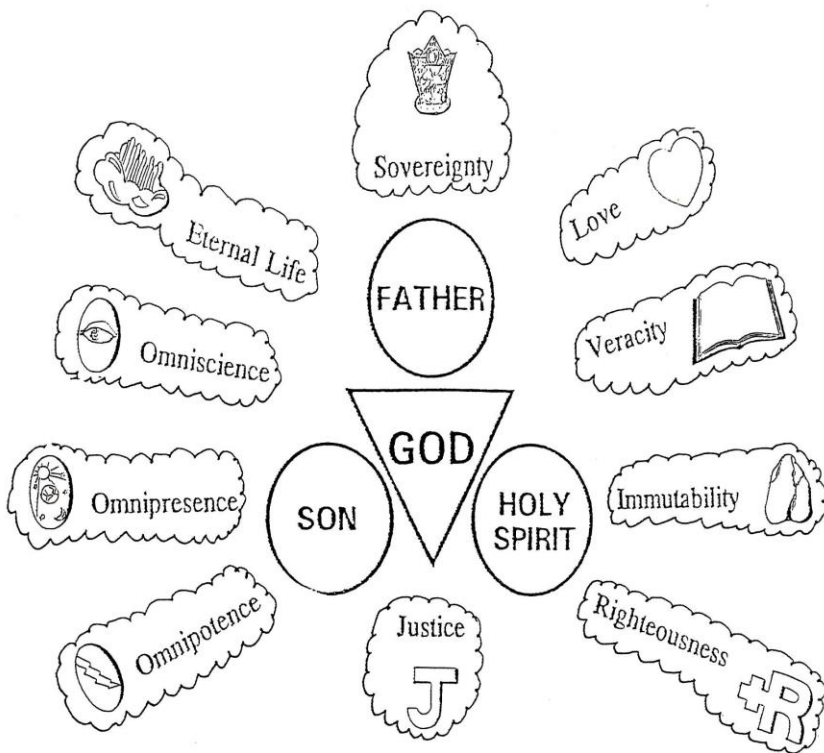
Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.



1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.



God's Divine Nature



Our God is an awesome God!

As believers in Jesus Christ, God the Father has called us to His eternal glory in Christ. This means that God wants us to know all about Him and His marvelous divine nature or His glory! We have to learn His word and obey Him. Yes, this will include suffering. But remember, by using His power and word to obey God, He will bring us through our suffering and it will bring glory to Him. His glory will shine forever! When we are in Heaven we will see and learn more about His glory. Halleluiah!



1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.



Heaven is our final home. While we are on earth and have suffered "for a little while", God will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. In other words, through our suffering, the God of all grace will make us strong and firm in our belief in Him. We will be firmly fixed in our love for God. Now isn't that fantastic? We are on earth to show others God's grace and glory and how He always comes through for us; we just have to rely on Him! God doesn't want us to get too comfortable with this world since it is not our real home. He wants us to be comfortable with Him! Any true comfort comes from God because He takes care of all of our needs. He is preparing us for our final home with Him in Heaven. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.





John 8:31 If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.



Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"



Psalms 55:22 Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.



1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.



Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.