

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SIX STAGES OF GRACE (#5)
Undeserved Suffering Grace (#1)

We are currently studying the doctrine of the six stages of God's Grace in the Christ Way of Life (CWL).

- Saving Grace
- Logistical Grace
- Growth Maturity Grace
- **Undeserved Suffering Grace**
- Dying Grace
- Surpassing Grace.

Today's lesson will study the first three aspects of God's Grace called **Undeserved Suffering (U/S)**.

1. Paul taught that Undeserved Suffering was a favored or special grace provision (charizomai) (a.p.ind.3ps) [granted] to every Church Age Believer (CAB).

(Phil.1:29-30) "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me." (1 Pet.2:21; 2 Cor.12:9)

The extent of ones Undeserved Suffering (U/S) depends upon the magnitude of the ministry God has assigned to it.

Job would be an example of this principle:

(James 5:11) "We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful." (2 Cor.1:3-7)

2. It is important to distinguish between the three categories of suffering in the CWL:

(John 16:33) "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**" (1 John 4:4; 5:4-4, 19).

We will give an example of each category of suffering in the CWL.

- **Self-induced misery**
 - **Eutychus** fell asleep during an all night bible study while sitting in a window, fell three stories, and died. Paul brought him back to life (Acts 20:7-12).
- **Divine discipline**
 - **Jonah** was swallowed by a sea monster because he refused to obey the directive will of God (Jonah 1:1-2; 3:1-2)
 - § (Jonah 2:2) "I called out of my distress to the Lord, and He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice." (Heb.5:5-11; Ps.119:67, 71)

- **Undeserved suffering**

- (Heb.11:24-26) “By faith **Moses**, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking for the reward.

3. Undeserved suffering is designed to orient the ambassador for Christ in the world to trust the Lord with his life, even unto death (2 Cor.5:18-21).

(2 Tim.1:8-9) “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in **suffering for the gospel** according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Cor.2:9-10) (Phil.1:7-8, 12-14; 20-21)

(2 Cor.1:8-10) “For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of **our affliction** which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves **so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God** who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us.” (2 Cor.4:7-11; 11:23-30; 12:1-10)