

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SIX STAGES OF GRACE (#6) **Undeserved Suffering Grace (#2)**

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 last four aspects of God's Grace called Undeserved Suffering (U/S).

1. Undeserved Suffering is evidence of the spiritually advancing believer's walk with the Lord.

(2 Thess.1:4-5) "Therefore we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be **considered worthy** of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are setting." (2 Tim.3:10-12) (1 Pet.1:6-7; Heb.5:8)

(Rom.5:3-5) "And not only this, but **we also exult in our tribulations**, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Rom.8:35-39) (Phil.3:10; 1 Pet.5:10)

2. It is essential that the Church Age Believer (CAB) maintain a Relaxed Mental Attitude (RMA) through Grace Orientation (G/O) to the Plan of God.

(1Pet.4:12-13) "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but **to the degree that** you share the **suffering of Christ, keep on rejoicing**, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation." (1Pet.4:16; Rom.12:12)

Example: Naomi [meaning pleasant] told her neighbors to call her to **Mari** [the bitter one] because of suffering in her life (Ruth 1:20; Prov.14:10; **Heb.12:15**; Prov.15:13)

(1 Pet.4:19) "Therefore, those also who **suffer according to the will of God** shall entrust their soul to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." (2 Cor.1:3-11)

(James 1:2-4) "**Consider it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. And endurance have its perfect result **so that** you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (Col.1:24)

3. Undeserved Suffering is an extension of the Angelic Conflict (A/C) in the life of a spiritually advancing believer.

Job is one example (Job 1:6-11; 2:2-10; 42:7-16).

(Job 42:12a) “The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.”

(James 5:11) “We count those **blessed who endure**. 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.”

Victory in the angelic conflict:

(1 John 5:4-5) “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world – our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” [Application of the Faith Cycle]