



Can I ***REALLY*** Change?

Romans 5 - 8



What good is SUFFERING?

Romans 5:3-8

“we glory in tribulations also”

- Romans 5:3

We “glory” because we know something ...

1. We know that suffering (*pressure*) produces perseverance (*patience*) ... vs. 3.
2. We know that perseverance produces character (*experience*) ... vs. 4.
3. We know that character produces confidence (*hope*) ... vv. 4-5.

**1. Everyone's life is filled
with sunshine & rain.**

Matthew 5:45

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Philippians 1:29

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

James 1:2-3

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

1. Everyone's life is filled with sunshine & rain.
2. When you suffer, it is crucial that you approach your suffering with the right attitude so that you will ultimately benefit from the problems you face and God's work in your life.

- Wrong Attitude #1 - *“Why me?”*
- Wrong Attitude #2 - *“Just get me out of this!”*
- Wrong Attitude #3 - *“I guess that’s just how life is.”*

- **Godly Attitude #1 - *Understand that God is at work in your suffering***
- **Godly Attitude #2 - *Understand that suffering produces spiritual fruit / character***

Faith is always tested.

Satan always challenges what God does.
You either flex your spiritual muscles and
grow - or you back away and retreat.



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- Godly Attitude #2 - *Understand that suffering produces spiritual fruit / character*
- Godly Attitude #3 - *Understand that the character building process takes time*

Spiritual gifts are received in an instant; *spiritual fruit* is not instantaneous – it is grown & that takes time.



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- Godly Attitude #2 - *Understand that suffering produces spiritual fruit / character*
- Godly Attitude #3 - *Understand that the character building process takes time*
- Godly Attitude #4 - *Understand that suffering reveals our true source of hope/confidence*

Day by Day

and with each passing moment



**Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Gives unto each day what He deems best,
Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.**

**Help me then, in every tribulation,
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation,
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.**