



Suffering Succotash Part 1: Theology of Suffering

There's pain in life. You probably realized that by now. It's been a part of man's experiences since the fall of Adam because we are fallen people in a fallen world. There's no denying that.

But make no mistake. Although through Adam's fall this form of death came to all men, through Jesus's righteous act (finished work of Christ), the free gift became available to all men, resulting in life and life more abundant.

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

The life that God gives is not just a spiritual aspect that we'll experience in heaven one day. It is the very life of Jesus that permeates every part of His being in His eternal resurrected state. In other words, it describes both the spiritual and the physical state. If not, look at the other half of the verse above. Would you say stealing, killing and destroying is as much a physical threat as it is spiritual? Yes! Satan doesn't just go around stealing, killing and destroying people spiritually. He does it physically, too. Satan steals peace through hatred, kills through disease, and destroys through looting. Likewise, the life that Jesus came to bring us is also spiritual and physical.

Many believers in Christ don't believe that God is really that good to send His Son to come and give us life in every sense of the word not just in heaven but today until we get to heaven and not just spiritually but also physically.

They don't believe God is really that good for two reasons. The main reason is because of their painful past experiences or witnessing the painful experiences of others. The second reason is because they have been hoodwinked by wrong doctrine.

There is empathy for all those that misconstrue God's goodness based on past experiences or witnessing first hand the pain and suffering of others. To them I say that God was neither the causer of your pain nor did He allow suffering. In fact, it is with great certainty that God was against your pain that caused you or others much suffering. This is why He hurts with those that hurt and mourns with those that mourn. He is the Father of compassion, and the God of all comfort, who comforts through all pain and suffering.

But then why does God allow pain and suffering? He doesn't. It is against His will. There was one meant to go through pain and suffering by the will of God – His name is Jesus.

For everyone else, imagine if God was the source or the allow-er of your pain and suffering and then He came along your side to comfort you. We call that a hypocrite. And yet most believe that God is somehow the source or the allow-er of pain and suffering to bring good in our life.

This however must be shocking to read to those that misconstrue God's goodness because of wrong beliefs on the theology of suffering.

I am appalled at the amount of garbage being taught in regards to suffering in a believer's life. I've seen firsthand how this wrong belief has plundered believers in Christ from experiencing the life that Christ came to give. Not only that but these same christian leaders teaching this doctrine of death have the audacity to condemn all those who are teaching God's goodness in an unrestrained manner by assassinating their characters and labeling them health and wealth preachers (or prosperity preachers). Yes, there are abuses from the pulpit, and I am against such practices, but those experiences do not negate the promises of God in the New Covenant.

My first response when I hear these death-sentencing-doctrines and envious rants towards those experiencing God's goodness is pray, "Father, what they don't want, give to me and my family."

Know that the life Jesus came to give includes health and prosperity but doesn't stop there. It is for every affair of life. This is why I want to teach you rightly about pain and suffering in the New Covenant. I promise, the truth will set you free.

Don't misunderstand me, this teaching is never intended to undermine those that are currently going through pain and suffering. This teaching will help you understand God's true nature in regards to your pain and suffering and help you get a greater revelation of God's grace because He is always better than we all think. This will empower you to have hope and faith towards prevailing, overcoming, and even avoiding pain and suffering through the grace of God. You can have the certainty God does not cause all things, but will work all things together for your good and to your advantage in the long run. When all is said and done, you will have the upper hand.

Firstly, nowhere in the New Testament does God call us to embrace suffering or much less call us into a life of suffering. When we accept pain and suffering as a vehicle from God to bring sanctification, purpose, blessing and glory to Him, we open the door for Satan to steal, kill, and destroy us. Trust me, if you give that kind of leeway to Satan, he will take your lunch money and strip you to the bone.

1 John 5:4

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

On the contrary, Jesus calls us to have a victorious, overcoming life. It's an invitation to live on earth as it is in heaven. This doesn't mean that we won't have troubles, trials, and persecution. Jesus said we would experience these; however, we don't embrace troubles, trials, and persecution as a blessing but reject as an enemy. God is our deliverer, savior, and protector and we use our faith to to overcome the world, not to call, expect or embrace suffering and pain.

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