

Winter Park Christian Church: Pastor Samuel Ruiz  
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***A Life Worth Living***  
**The Power of God Through Suffering**

September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

***Philippians 3:8-11***

As we look at Paul's life of submission and his testimony, Paul declares that he counts everything as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. We see his readiness to suffer the loss of all his gains in life and all his accomplishments, in order that he might gain Jesus and be found in the righteousness that was provided by Him. As Paul continues to declare his passion for the Lord, he adds that another goal of knowing Him is to experience "*the power of His resurrection*" and that he may "*...share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.*"

**A passion to experience the power of His resurrection**

*"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection..."*

- ❖ As Jesus came in human form to this world, He submitted to the Father in everything and modeled His complete dependency on the power of God.
  - Luke 4:1,14
- ❖ Jesus' greatest declaration of surrender and dependency on the power of God took place when He died on the cross and patiently waited on the power of the Spirit to bring Him back from death to life.
  - Hebrews 5:7-9
  - Acts 2:24,32
  - Ephesians 1:16-20
- ❖ The power of the Spirit declared Jesus to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead.
  - Romans 1:1-4
- ❖ We must grow in our understanding of the power of the Spirit of God working in us and passionately seek to be living under this power in order that God's call be fulfilled in our lives.
  - Romans 8:8-17
- ❖ It is God's will that we experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, that we live by Him, and that we depend on His power.
- ❖ Because we tend to set our minds on the things of the flesh, God has allowed, in His will, that we experience suffering so that we realize that without the power of God it will be impossible to overcome our sin, to walk in newness of life, and to glorify Jesus.

*Romans 8:16-17 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."*<sup>1</sup> NASB

**A passion to share His sufferings**

*"...and [that I] may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."*

- ❖ Paul declared that the opposition we experience in life as we live according to the faith of the gospel was a clear sign of our salvation from God. Paul explains that because of our faith, it has been granted to us to suffer for the sake of Christ.

*Philippians 1:29 "For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake,"*

*Acts 5:41 "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."*

- Suffering for the sake of Christ is counted as a blessing.

- ❖ There are many reasons for which we experience suffering and none of it comes by chance, but we believe that God in His wisdom always uses suffering in our lives for good and with purpose.

*Acts 14:21-22 "When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."*

- ❖ We live in a fallen world and part of life is knowing that in this world we will have tribulation.

*John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

- We must trust that in the same way Jesus overcame difficulties, through Him we are also able to overcome.

- ❖ Sometimes we suffer as a result of discipline from God that will produce in us endurance against sin and hostility.

- Hebrews 12:1-10
- 2 Corinthians 12:3-10

- ❖ We experience suffering because of persecution when we associate ourselves with Jesus and His commandments.

- John 15:18-21

- ❖ As we experience suffering for the sake of the gospel, we should not lose confidence that His blessing is on us, but we rejoice in Him knowing that we were called to give testimony of our faith and we are walking in victory.

*2 Timothy 1:8 "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,"*

- ❖ Suffering that comes to our lives always is a test that prepares us for the eternal glory and we should not be surprised by it.

- 1 Peter 4:12-16

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18 "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*

- ❖ Our experience in suffering equips us to be a comfort to others.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

The passion of Paul to know and experience Christ was so profound, he was willingly seeking to share Christ's sufferings and becoming like Jesus in His death.

*“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,”*

Endnotes:

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