

Jesus Christ Suffered Because of His Love for All Mankind!

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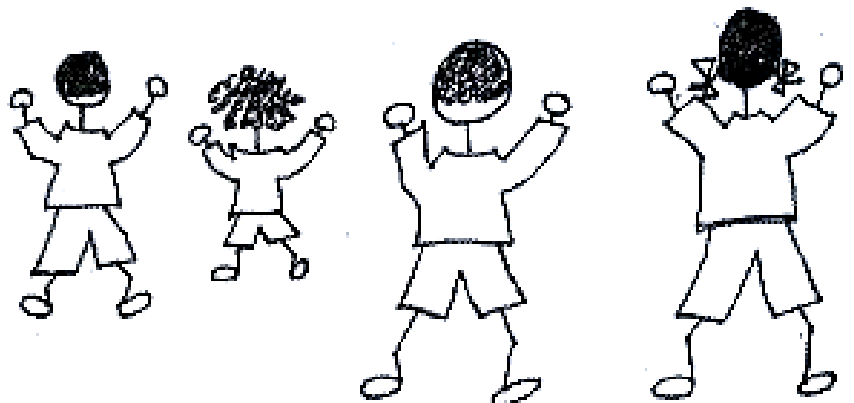
Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.



Because of His love for us, Jesus Christ suffered! He wants us to see the reasons He had to suffer and Who and what got Him through it all. He wants us to understand how He learned and had the power to be courageous in His sufferings. He wants us to understand the joy in His heart during His sufferings. Jesus wants us to know that, yes, we will suffer. He wants us to know Who and what will get us through it all. He wants us to **learn** to experience the joy in our hearts during our sufferings. He has shown us the way - He is the way!

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Hebrews 12:3 For consider Him Who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

It isn't the trials or the testing itself that is joyful; having a broken leg isn't joyful! Losing your job isn't joyful! And we could go on and on. The joy comes from knowing that God will get us through the testings when we rely on Him! The more we see God come through for us, the more trusting we are of His control of our life. He gets us through our trials and the testing of our faith in Him. He will give us the power to endure through it all! This will bring God the glory and increase our confidence in Him! We will get to the place where we have the capacity to know that God is growing us in the image of Jesus Christ and that is a great joy!



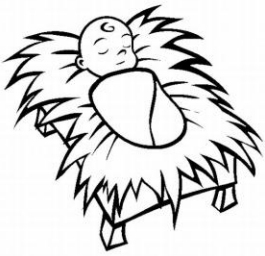
Jesus wants us to see the reasons He had to suffer. He suffered in His humanity to learn obedience to God the Father: *Hebrews 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.* He also suffered so He could relate to us in our sufferings. Jesus Christ understands pain - both physical and mental; He had more pain than any of us will ever have!

Isaiah 53:3a He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Jesus Christ went through the worst suffering on the cross when He paid the price of salvation to God the Father for all mankind! He wants all to be saved and one day to be with Him in Heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;





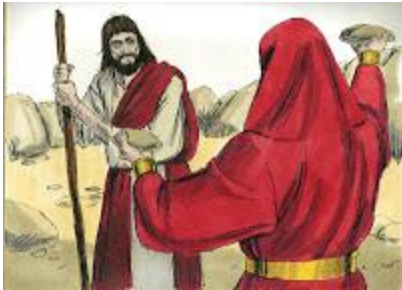
Jesus was homeless.



He suffered sadness - one time was with Mary and others when Lazarus died.

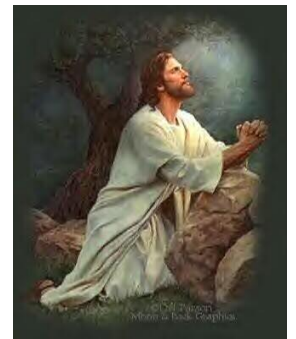


Jesus was rejected by family and friends.



He was tempted by Satan and responded to Satan with Scripture.

Jesus was alone, no friends prayed with Him before His arrest.



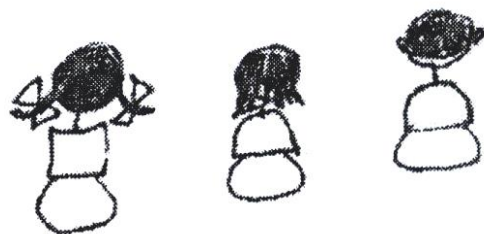
He was crowned with thorns and crucified!

We will never be able to relate to His suffering on the cross; but we can relate to homelessness, the death of a close friend, rejection by family and friends, loneliness and being tempted. When Jesus was tempted in His humanity, He didn't use His deity; He went to and sited Scriptures! He showed us the way!



Who and what got Jesus Christ through all the suffering? He had the power of God the Holy Spirit. Now that's power! And He had the guidelines from Scripture - God's word! His parents, Joseph and Mary, made sure Jesus learned Scripture. It became His thinking. He learned to obey God and all authority. Yes, Jesus in His humanity had to learn; He learned obedience to the will of God the Father. He had the power of God the Holy Spirit so He could be courageous in His sufferings and carry out the will of the Father. The love and grace of God was poured into Him. Even though He suffered, the God of all grace took care of His every need!

Luke 2:40 The Child continued to grow and became strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.



Jesus Christ wants us to understand the joy in His heart during His sufferings. He was thinking about the salvation He would be able to make available for mankind whom He loves. He didn't and doesn't want **anyone** to suffer in the Lake of Fire. Jesus knew the outcome of His obedience to the will of God the Father - the sin issue would be settled once and for all! Many would believe in Him as their Savior. Therefore He had joy in His heart!

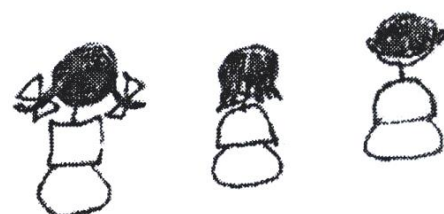
Hebrews 12:2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Jesus wants us to know that, yes, we will suffer. He wants us to know that He experienced what it means to be human and suffer pain! He never despaired. He always trusted in God, His loving, heavenly Father, Who was always there for Him. Jesus Christ knows that because of His sufferings we can go to Him Who truly understands us. He has given us the answer for all of our suffering - to rely on God and His grace. Jesus relied on God and His grace; look where it got Him! He is seated at the right hand of God the Father! **PLUS**, the Father sees all believers right there with Christ because we are members of the Body of Christ! Amazing grace!

Ephesians 2:6 And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.



As members of the Body of Christ, we are in union with Him. Jesus Christ died and was raised from the dead. Our old man and the sin issue died with Him. And in our new man, who we are in Christ, we shall also live with Him. *Romans 6:8-9 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.* When we are having a bad day - or minute - we can think this way, "O.K. With Christ I can go through this suffering even when - especially when - I don't have a clue what is going to happen!" We know that Jesus knows what we are going through! Even if He didn't go through the exact same experience, He suffered the mental pain through a different experience. Jesus Christ knows our pain!

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever.
Amen.

1 Peter 5:10-11



Each one of us will suffer pain. Jesus wants us to know Who and what will get us through it all, the same Who and what that got Him through it all - God the Holy Spirit and Scripture! We can either rely on God and His grace or we can rely on our flesh. I've tried both ways and believe me, I bombed out when I relied on my flesh! I doubled, maybe even tripled my suffering! (OUCH) Instead of thinking about who I am in Jesus I went to who I am in myself - powerless to fight the flesh. After I couldn't take it anymore, I cried, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15) I wanted the Holy Spirit to help me. And as always, He did. He brought me back to the Scriptures of who I am in Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come.



Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifest through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.



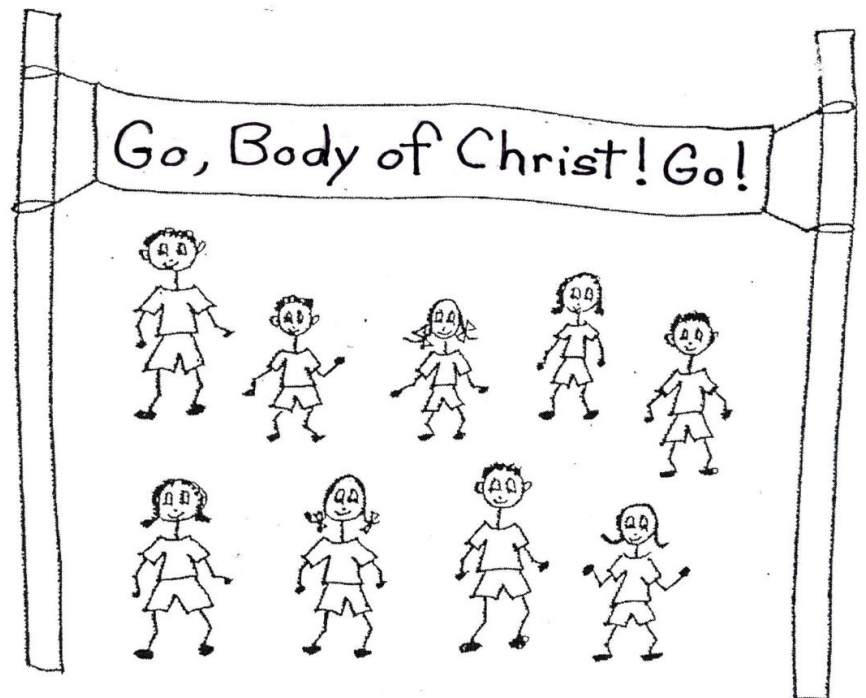
Because of the sufferings and trials we go through and the comfort we receive from God, we will be better equipped to help others when they are going through suffering. We can at least let them know that we have also suffered pain even though it was different from theirs. We can let them know that God can comfort them just like He comforted us! Knowing that we can be a vessel for God to comfort others will bring joy to our hearts!

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.



When we have a problem, we are to start with Christ and move to ourselves. We go from solid ground in Jesus Christ to our shaky ground. Order counts! See yourself in Jesus Christ; bring your awareness to His death, resurrection, and where He is now in heaven! We are in Christ - whatever is true about His humanity is true about us. When the world is just offering you NOISE, and Satan is devouring your peace and your well-being, call a "time out". Remember who you are in Christ!

Romans 6:8-11 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.



We go back to the death and resurrection of Christ to learn more about who we are in Christ. We will be learning about this forever! We are united with Christ in His death and resurrection. Jesus is in heaven in a resurrection body! And we are in Him; God sees us as one day being right there in a resurrection body with Him! We are to look at the life God wants us to live. *Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)*

Once God brings us from lies to the truth of who we are, it becomes a simple matter of who we are in Christ to being who we are in Christ. That's the life! Step into the life God has for you to live!

John 10:10b "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."



God our Father will take care of our every need! He is on our side! He just wants us to endure! He wants to reach people through us. That is how He set it up. We can look at things that are hurtful to others and ourselves. Then we can bring the word of God to those things. God helps us to overcome the suffering. Jesus clearly understands human suffering **because He suffered**. We all suffer! Walk to the cross with your suffering. Know that when Jesus died, you died; when He rose from the dead, so did you! His afflictions were turned into joy; ours can be also! Jesus' death and resurrection are the answer to all sorrow and tears! In God's eyes we are with Christ! Obviously we are still here on earth dealing with life, but one day we will be with Jesus in Heaven!



Romans 8:34-37 Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.



Cards to print.



Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.



John 10:10b I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.



2 Corinthians 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.



Hebrews 12:3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



1 Peter 5:10-11 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.



Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.



John 8:31 If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.



1Peter 2:24 And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation [deliverance] of your souls.

