

Reading: I Peter 4:1,2,12-19

Topic: Battle Of The Mind #3

INTRODUCTION: God desires that our _____ be prepared for opposition and the suffering that will come to every _____ of God at some time or another.

I. PREPARING THE MIND:

A. Like Christ Suffered:

1. Christians are followers of _____, and if _____ who was God in flesh had to suffer, we will also suffer in this life. I Pt. 2:21
2. Christ also suffered unjustly, not _____ what came His way, but He did not _____ out revenge on His opposers. I Pt. 2:22,23

B. Suffering Will Come:

1. We are warned to get our _____ armed, because regardless of what we have been promised, not everything in this life will go _____. I Pet. 4:1
2. Jesus warned us that we would be guaranteed a certain amount of _____ from this world and its ungodly system. Jn. 15:18-21

C. Understanding The Battle:

1. We must get to know and _____ our Lord deeply, or else we will misunderstand what the real battle of _____ is all about. Pr. 3:5
2. God's primary objective is not first to make His children _____, but to make them _____ and then true _____ will bring lasting peace and joy. I Tim. 4:8; I Tim. 6:6
3. When accidents, _____, injustice, financial _____, breakdowns and delays, etc. happen to us, we must remember that _____ things work together for our _____. Rom. 8:28

II. PURPOSE OF THE BATTLE OF SUFFERING:

A. Dependency Upon God:

1. Humanity tends to develop a sense of independence and self-sufficiency, and to drift _____ from God when everything is _____ perfectly well. Jer. 22:21
2. Suffering reminds us of our _____ and vulnerability, and thus it teaches us how much that we really need to _____ upon God. 2 Cor. 12:6

B. Humility:

1. When we have been _____ by the Lord, or when we have great talents and _____, it is possible for _____ to creep into our hearts and to become lifted up inside. Pr. 29:23
2. Suffering serves to remind us that we are _____, and that God is the real source of our life and our strength and abilities, therefore we need to walk _____ before our God. 2 Cor. 12:7

C. Discipline:

1. Disobedience to God's _____ is rewarded much the same way as a disobedient _____ is corrected – by chastisement of some kind from the Lord. Heb. 12:6
2. God's love for us causes Him to _____ us so that we will not be eternally lost, but through Him, we will learn _____ and be saved. Heb. 5:8

III. BENEFITS OF THE BATTLE OF SUFFERING:

A. Peace & Righteousness:

1. The battle of suffering is not _____ to pass through, but the results at the end will bring peace and righteousness to our lives. Heb. 12:11

B. Patience:

1. The battle of suffering will bring _____ to our lives, and make us more compassionate and understanding, as well as more _____ in Jesus. James 1:2-4

CONCLUSION: If we can only remember that in this world, we will have some _____ times and suffering, and that it is part of God's _____, we will certainly overcome and someday reign with _____. 2 Tim. 2:12