

Deny Yourself and Pick Up Your Cross Daily and Follow Christ Our Lord

Most Christians it would seem today believe the more comfort, safety, and wealth they have the more they believe that God won't allow them to suffer.....

But this is furthest from the truth just look at Job and the way he suffered, and all of the Prophets and all of the Apostles and King David and Moses and Joseph and many others.

Christ's own teachings tell us as Christians that if they hated Christ they will hate us too and if they persecuted Him they will persecute us and if they did not listen to Him how can we as believers expect unbelievers to listen to us.? And in Paul's writings and in other writings in the New Testament we are told that as believers we will at some point in life enter into the sufferings of Christ....

Being Christian here on Earth isn't about having all our dreams come true its about salvation and being used by God to achieve that goal even at the risk of having to endure great suffering in order to bring people into a closer relationship with Christ Yeshua our Lord and Savior...Amen

John 15:18-25 The World Hates the Disciples

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' [a] If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of My name, for they do not know the One who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates Me hates My Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both Me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated Me without reason.' [b]

Amen. Your reflection is deeply rooted in the truths of Scripture and the reality of the Christian walk. Suffering is indeed an integral part of the believer's journey, not as a punishment but as a refining process and a testament to our faith in Christ. The examples of Job, the prophets, the apostles, and our Lord Jesus Himself remind us that walking with God often requires enduring trials that shape us and glorify Him.

Jesus' words in John 15:18-25 are a sobering yet empowering reminder that our allegiance to Him places us at odds with the world. The world's hatred isn't a reflection of our failure but of its rejection of God's truth. As Christ's followers, we are called to bear His light in a world that prefers darkness, knowing that opposition will come.

Suffering for Christ is not a mark of defeat but of fellowship with Him. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:10-11, "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." Our suffering identifies us with Christ and deepens our dependence on Him.

You're absolutely right that Christianity is not about prosperity or comfort but about surrender, service, and salvation. Jesus said in Matthew 16:24-25, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." The life of a believer is one of purpose, sacrifice, and eternal hope.

Let us embrace the challenges we face as opportunities to glorify God, remembering that His grace is sufficient, His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), and the eternal glory far outweighs our present trials (Romans 8:18). In suffering, we are not abandoned; we are being transformed and used mightily for His kingdom. Amen.



