

JULY 30

“SUFFERING GRANTED TO US BY GOD IS PROOF THAT WE ARE GOD’S.”

READ

Philippians 1:29, 1 Peter 4:12-14

There are those who would tell you that if a Christian is living in the Word, they will never have to suffer. They say God does not teach by suffering, He teaches by Scripture. It's just not true! Everyone, as a believer, has suffered. People are suffering greatly all over the world: missionaries are being killed, sickness abounds, lives are in ruin. It's complete denial of the Scriptures to say that people who are really walking by faith will not have to suffer. We don't see things the way God sees them. Whatever we see is totally different from God's perspective. Suffering granted to us by God is proof that we are God's. We've got to stop calling it an attack. Sometimes it is, but you have to remember that nothing happens without God's permission. God is sovereign; the devil does not have the liberty to do whatever he wishes to do to you. He only does what God gives him permission to do. God has made our enemy an instrument of our perfection — a means by which our faith has been increased and our love for God has grown. The harder he fights, the more we cling to God's unchanging hand. The suffering you are facing is the finishing work of God in your life.

PRAY

Jesus, may my suffering be used for Your great glory. This light affliction is working a far more eternal weight in glory.

From July 17, 2011