

SUFFERING, HEALING AND GOD

August 25, 2019 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Thinking About Suffering With Faith and Truth, part 6

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

MAIN IDEA: In this world, there is suffering AND there is healing and deliverance. Both of these realities will coexist until Jesus returns to set everything straight. In the meantime, our part is to believe God, to trust him.

“We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” **2 Corinthians 1:8–10**

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” **2 Corinthians 12:7, 9**

Peter: like refining silver. (1 Peter 1:6-7)

James 1:2-4

“In this world you will have trouble.” **John 16:33**

“This small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble.” **2 Cor. 4:17 TEV**

- 1. Believe that, in our SUFFERING, God is still working good—even when we don’t understand how all of it works.**

“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached...” **Luke 16:16** (Heb. 1:1-3)

“We have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ...” **John 1:16-18 CSB**

“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” **Luke 7:20-23**

- 2. Believe God is still in the HEALING, bondage-breaking and restoring business—and we don’t understand how all of it works.**

“But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” **Matthew 12:28**

“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” **Luke 10:9**

The **12**, and then **72 followers**. (Mt. 10:1-8; Lk. 9:1-2; 10:1,9,17-20)

“whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” **John 14:12** (Acts 1:8; 2; 8:6)

The **now and not-yet kingdom**.

- 3. Discern the SOURCE of the suffering as best we can, consult God’s word, and get the Spirit’s lead in how to address it.**