

SUFFERING WITH CHRIST / *Romans 5:3*

If we serve the Lord, suffering is unavoidable. As we bring Christ's message to the world, we will suffer opposition. Christ participates with us when we suffer.

Colossians 1:24

I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am completing what remains of Christ's sufferings for his body, the church.

Philippians 1:29

For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

Philippians 3:10

As a result, I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I can learn what it means to suffer with him, sharing in his death.

1 Peter 2:21

This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps.

1 Peter 4:13

Instead, be very glad—because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and afterward you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory when it is displayed to all the world.

Until the world knows him, there is always more work to do. As we work for him, we can face suffering joyfully because we know people are being saved as a result of our work.

Our suffering and how we handle it are signs to others that we belong to Christ.

Sharing in Christ's mission for the world implies that we must share in his sacrifice. We must be ready to give up plans, pleasure, and even our life in order to serve him.

Christ never sinned, yet he suffered so we could be set free. We should face suffering as he did—with patience, calmness, and confidence that God is in control of the future.

God strengthens us by his Holy Spirit when we face persecution for him. We know that one day he will overcome all suffering when we are with him in glory.