

Why Some Christians Struggle And Suffer In Life

(NIV84) Jdg 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

They provoked the LORD to anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

14 In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. 15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.

17 Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the LORD's commands.

18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. 19 But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

20 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant that I laid down for their forefathers and has not listened to me, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.

22 I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did."

23 The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

This is Why Some Christians Struggle And Suffer In Life

- I. This is the history of all mankind!
 - A. When in trouble we turn to the Lord. But when trouble is gone, we turn away from the Lord. We think we can do without him and we do things our way.

1. As a result, we get in trouble and then we turned back to the Lord until things get all right. Then, again we turn away from the Lord.
2. Therefore, God keeps the situations in our life so that we will learn from experience that to disobey God will bring trouble. Obedience to him will bring and keep deliverance.
3. Let us look and what started this sorry state of affairs.

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IGNORANCE OF THE LORD'S WORD IS A MAJOR REASON FOR SUFFERING

- B. Failure to know and submit to the Lord can be dangerous for your health and your family's. You must learn to put the Lord first in your life. He will not accept second-place to anything in this world.
1. What is the first and greatest commandment?
 2. Then he tells us, we shall have no other gods before him. We must take the time to learn of him if we intend to be blessed.

FAILURE TO KNOW AND OBEY THE LORD CAN BE DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH & YOUR FAMILY'S

Even today this applies to those saved!

(NIV84) 2 Th 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

(NIV84) Heb 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

(NIV84) Ro 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

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THEY NEITHER KNEW THE LORD NOR WHAT HE HAD DONE BEFORE

- C. They did not (1) know him enough to know what he expected of them and they did not (2) know what he would do for those that love him and put him first!
 - 1. They were ignorant of his word and what he expected
 - a. Which meant an ignorance of him
 - 2. They were ignorant of his works
 - a. That he would take care of them

D. Look at the first commandment:

(NKJV) Ex 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Who he is (Deliverer)

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

What he expects of us from his word! (expectation)

- 1. This tells us he is a deliverer. He will see to it that we do not suffer under any bondage.
 - a. Think of things we can be in bondage to?
 - b. He wants to remind us that he will take care of us.
 - c. Then tells us he is to be first in our lives.
- 2. Our God will deliver us if we will keep him first in our lives!

OUR GOD WILL DELIVER US FROM ALL BONDAGE IF WE WILL KEEP HIM FIRST IN OUR LIVES!

- 3. This is why Jesus said we shall know the truth and it shall make us free!
- 4.

E. Then, as a result of their ignorance...

11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.

- 1. They began to put other things in front of God. He said he would have no God's before him.
- 2. it may not have seemed much to them, but it was evil in his eyes!
- 3. Again, this happen because they did not know him.
- 4. They went after the other gods because that's what other people around them were doing.

YOU CANNOT FOLLOW THE WAYS OF THE WORLD AND HONOR GOD!

F. **12 They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt.**

They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

They provoked the LORD to anger 13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

- 1. They kept doing it! They provoked him

- G. God punishes those who will not honor him.
14 In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist.
1. At first, they could resist. He was there strength. He was their protection. He fought their battles for them, but because they turned away from him he let them go their own way.
 2. He uses the world to beat us down when we ignore him.
(NKJV) Is 1:19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
 3. This is the reason many Christians are suffering today. They do things their way thinking what they do is alright with the Lord. They think they know the Lord but they are deceived.
 - a. Many may hear the word but they don't do it.
 - b. Just because someone hears the word it doesn't make them a Christian.
 - c. Many are misled by their preachers.
- H. Look again at the reason they were suffering:
(NIV84) Jdg 2:10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.

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15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress

1. If they had known the Lord, they would not have had to fight the battles they had to fight! He would have fought them for them.
 - a. How much needless grief we bear too simply because we do not take it to the Lord in prayer!
2. Critically also, we are told that they were not fighting against just the physical enemy they saw, they were fighting against the Lord.
 - a. This is what is so terrible today. Many people think that they cannot pay their bills because they are not making enough money. The truth is, they cannot pay their bills, because the Lord is keeping them from doing it!
 - b. Dealing with this problem and that one. Issues are all around. Every time they turn around they have a new problem.
 - c. Disobedience, turns the Lord against you. Look at the Scripture again.
15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them.
3. All of this was due to ignorance of the word of God.

- I. I am saddened because many times people suffer needlessly because of their rebellion against God.
 1. Sometimes, people do people a disservice by trying to help them when God is trying to correct them by disciplining them in a trial.
 2. Think, How can a God robber expect to prosper when he is violating God?

HOW CAN A GOD ROBBER EXPECT TO PROSPER WHEN HE IS VIOLATING GOD?

3. Sometimes people try to help those who are going against God. They are actually themselves drawn into a battle against God by people they are trying to help.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO ASSIST PEOPLE WHO ARE ODDS WITH GOD AND BE DRAWN INTO THE FIGHT AGAINST HIM!

4. The time the church paid for drugs.
- J. Not knowing the word of God cause them to not do the word of God.
 1. As a result, they suffered because of their failure to take the time to know what God expected of them.
 2. How many of us today struggling because we are not doing what God says first to do? Sometimes it's simply because we just don't know what is the right thing to do.
 - K. Our whole household can suffer because of our ignorance of God's word. We must be serious about hearing the word of God. We cannot attend churches that do not teach us the whole truth. The cost of ignorance of God's word is too great!
(NIV84) Ho 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.
 1. This is sad, but it is true.
 2. God has said
(NKJV) Lk 12:47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.
48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few.
For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.
 - a. Today, we have no excuse. All of us have the word of God right within our reach. We have our Bibles right in our cell phones.
 - b. Do you think God is going to excuse us for not knowing his word when his word is so very near us!

GOD'S WORD IS NEAR YOU, IT IS AS CLOSE AS YOUR CELL PHONE

3. Instead of using it to get close to God, you use it to get close to your friends on Facebook.
 - a. To text during church.
 - b. To watch people fight.
 - c. To keep up with the latest gossip.
 - d. To tell people what you ate this morning
 - e. To find a boyfriend or girlfriend
 - f. Whatever!

- L. We must put God's word first in our life. Remember why the people suffered?
 1. The Word is near us all. It is as close as our mouths to repeat it. It will not return to him void.
 2. Life and death are in the power of the tongue! Be careful what you say!
 - a. You are children of God created in his image and have the power of the words you speak to make you or break you!
(NIV84) Pr 18:20 From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied.
 - b. God will give you the fruit of your lips and you will be judged by not only what you do, but by also what you say!
(NIV84) Mt 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

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- M. Therefore, what must we do?
(NKJV) 2 Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 1. This is the reason I am presenting the back to the Bible program to you.
 2. Everyone in this church needs to start carrying their Bible with them.
 Especially here in church!
- N. We must come to know the word of God so that we can trust God over ourselves. We have to remember, our ways are not his ways.
 1. Our ways will destroy us.
 2. We have to deny what we want and do what God says!
 3. We are killing ourselves by ignoring God and not knowing that he will take care of us if we devote ourselves to him.
- O. He tells us to come together and encourage one another. This is the reason you must have a good church!
 1. You must be around believers that will hold you accountable.
 2. You must have a pastor that will teach you God's word.

IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD IS COSTLY

(NKJV) Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching

- a. The members of this church should be encouraging one another to do what is right.
 - b. We should see each other as family!
3. We don't need to seek out a church where we can hide out, we need to be in a church where we stand out as servants of God!

DON'T SEEK A CHURCH TO HIDE OUT IN, SEEK A CHURCH TO STAND OUT IN

4. You need to be encourage and able to do the work of the Lord.
 - a. Remember, God expects you to bear fruit!
 - b. Remember also, if you do not bear fruit, you are disobeying him and he will hold you accountable.
- P. Look what happened as a result of ignorance to Eli's sons

(NIV84) 1 Sa 2:12 Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.

(NKJV) 1 Sa 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

(NIV84) 1 Sa 2:17 This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.

(NKJV) 1 Sa 2:17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

1. God destroyed this man of God's family because of their ignorance and their ignorant disobedience to him.

NOT KNOWING THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT AN EXCUSE GOD WILL ACCEPT FROM YOU!

2. You must come to know the word of God! You must make sure you have his word in your heart!

- a. This is your most important responsibility in life! Remember the words of Solomon:

(NKJV) Ec 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

ETERNITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE HERE AND NOW

- Q. Again, why do many people suffer in life?

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- R. They did not know him to know what he expected of them and they did not know what he would do for those that love him and put him first!
 - 1. They were ignorant of his word
 - a. which meant an ignorance of him
 - 2. They were ignorant of his works.
 - a. they would not trust him with take care of them
- S. it is time for us to come to know the Lord and to remember who he is and what he will do for us.
- T. It is better to obey God than to try to make it without him. If we know him, we know he will not forsake us.
- U. Here is the God that we serve and his words to us

Je 29: 11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- 1. These plans are based upon a condition

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

- V. **(NKJV) 2 Ch 7:13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**
- W. So now, no matter your situation, now is the time, this very moment to make up your mind that you will turn to the Lord. You will put him first and as he has said he will deliver you when you call upon his name!
- X. Now is the opportunity for everyone to return to the Lord to honor him and to come to know him.
 - 1. I now open up the doors of this church for you to join with us and for those that have been to make the commitment to put him first.
 - 2. To stop missing church thinking that other things are more important.
 - 3. Remember, you must know the Lord and what he expects of you and you must know how he will take care of you.

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- Y. God does not automatically fulfill his plan for us. We have to accept his plan.

1. God had a plan for Adam and Eve. They rejected it!
2. How did they reject it? They were disobedient!
3. If they were obedient they would've had the best of the land and death would have never entered the world.

Z. Don't forget, that's the reason he established his church - so that we will not be prey to situations in this world.

(NKJV) Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

AA. Your success in life is dependent upon your knowing the Lord and that he will take care of you.

BB. Now,

(NKJV) Mt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.