

Comments Related to Spiritual Suffering
and the Incomplete Achievement of Personal Goals.

1. God is worth fighting for and the losing of battles - in order to win the war. It is His battle and not ours.
2. The kingdom of God is worth fighting for and the losing of battles - in order to win the kingdom.
3. The truth of God is worth fighting for and the losing of battles - in order to learn and implement the truth.
4. The people of God are worth fighting for and the losing of battles - in order to win and teach His people.
5. The Lord Jesus reminded us that in the world we would have tribulation. We receive opposition from the world as a system, the fleshly nature, and also from the enemy - as we are in the world. He has overcome it all and will teach us how to live out His victory. John 16:33
6. Even the Lord Jesus had to learn obedience by the things He suffered (Hebrews 5:8). He could only be prepared to perform His task of making the atonement by suffering (Hebrews 2:10). We are not greater than our Lord. There are some things that we can only learn through suffering and failure.
7. The characteristic of being a Christian is that we are to deny ourselves and take up the cross and follow the Lord Jesus (Mark 8:34). This often appears to cause us to lose our lives (Mark 8:35-37). We must remember that we are living according to a different blueprint than those about us or that which is based on rationality and standards of human success.
8. The early Christians thought suffering was an honor (Acts 5:41).
9. Suffering is often referred to as the will of God for the Christian. (Acts 9:16; Romans 8:17,18; II Cor. 1:5,6; Phil. 1:29; 3:10; II Tim. 3:12; I Peter 4:10,11)
10. Even our failure to achieve the goals we desire - is related to the grace of God (II Cor. 1:3,4). Joseph in Egypt is an example of this as was Paul in prison. Many external factors may contribute to our inability to fully realize our goals. The Lord Jesus was not able to perform the miracles He desired at Nazareth because of unbelief (Matt. 13:53-58) and the work of the enemy hindered Paul in his work (I Thess. 2:18).
11. Sometimes our seeming failure to achieve our goals may be within the plan of God. Paul's arrest and imprisonment kept him f*om his ministry but it opened up a much wider form of service (Phil. 1:12-14).
12. It is very important that we do not accept failure as the will of God when it is not. We are not destined to fail! We must make sure that we are not planning and achieving our own failure by inadequate planning, spiritual exercise and hard work. Christianity works!

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