

## Title: Suffering of Christ

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 2/11/24

The Lord has called this house to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. Whether you are a new saint or an old saint, those who believe in God are to be equipped. That is what God has asked us to do to raise up the Bride. So, those that love the Lord would be filled with power endued from on high by the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of the Kingdom, it says that man decided that their way was better. In the Garden of Eden, Jesus created a place literally on the Earth in a physical location, where He and mankind could be together in one heart, one spirit, and one soul. His spirit encompassed them. But, Adam and Eve decided that their way was better. They wanted to try their way, and that sin separated us from God. We were born into that iniquity.

In the Psalms, it says that, "I was conceived in sin." I was conceived in my iniquity, and that sin has led me to be separated from God. The wages of my separation is death, because I was created to be connected to God. My original call was always to be born connected to God. But when I was born, I was separated. That is why we go through our lives looking for that connection back with our source of life. It feels like there is a hole in our hearts, like a doughnut that we can eat and gratify the soul, but never actually *feel* satisfied.

When the Holy Spirit opens your heart to say, "I am that source of life that you have been looking for," your flesh says, "I cannot have that. The guilt consciousness of my sins have brought me to this place. It is my fault that *Christ* had to die. It is my fault that there needs to be something paid. It is my fault it has come to this." He says, "You are right. It is your fault. But, I love you, and because I love you, I do not want you to die. You were meant to be with me. Actually, I was meant to be with you."

It says in First Corinthians that "the body is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body." If God could be created, He was created for you, and to dwell in you. The Lord was for the body, as the body was made for the Lord. It is a very powerful statement if you reverse it. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom, that there had to be a blood payment for death. There had to be a death paid for the death that we owed. Jesus was the Son of God who came. God gave Him freely and said, "This is my only Son. I am so pleased in Him, but I will give up His life, that I may have my whole family back home."

### John 3:16 NKJV

Yes, this is what we believe. This is the sanctifying work of God. That I believe His blood covers my sin and washes me clean. But, that was not the end of the story. He did die. But, three days later He said, "I am not going to stay dead." The Holy Spirit says, "I have a say in this," and Holy Spirit quickened His mortal body to breathe again. Holy Spirit raised Jesus up three days later. That is why we celebrate Easter, to give praise to the power of the Holy Spirit that could make a dead man breathe again on His own. Without somebody praying for Him, and without somebody telling Him to wake up. Holy Spirit did it on His own accord. He overcame death and the grave. Finally, the One was put in the grave and raised Himself out.

The bondage we were all called to go into, that one day you would see the shackles on your own hands. Someone was able to take those shackles off, and walk back out the door. His name is Jesus. He is the only way to do the same thing. When we believe in Him, we get baptized into that very grave. We say, "This is the grave of Jesus, and I have been baptized into the same death. As I go into the same death, I will come out the same way He did with a glorious, new body. The flesh that I have been fighting since I was born in my iniquity and in my

Sunday, February 11, 2024

sin, I will not fight it anymore. It will be glorified. It will be sanctified. Not because of what I have done, but only because of Him. That is the faith that we have in Jesus Christ. That is the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, this is the Gospel of the Kingdom. This is what He has done for us. This is what it means to be saved. This is what it means when we say that. When you have encountered it, you understand. It is hard thing to understand until you have witnessed it for yourself.

### II Timothy 3:1-5

Some versions say, "from such people, shun those people." What is so interesting is that the world will say, "I have seen a lot of these people in the church." They avoid them, like the Bible says. They turn away, and will have nothing to do with the church of God, because they see these things in the church. The Bible is true. These people are not really real. "Having a form of godliness, but denying its power, from such people turn away." The world does that very well. Of course, they add spite, persecution, and slander to it. But, if the Bride will have a "form of godliness, but no power," the world will and has shunned them. Judgment starts in the house of God, as we will read in a few minutes. Judgment starts in the house of God.

There is a concept of death and life in the Bible. We mentioned it. The first death actually happened to the spirit of man. It is an ironic thing, because God said, "If you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will die." But, when they ate of the tree, they did not fall over dead in the sense that we know. This is the first instance at the beginning of the Bible where you have to have spiritual understanding. We see so often in the physical realm, but He is asking us to look to the unseen realm. He is asking us to look to the spiritual realm, that there is more to life than just this realm. This is the seen realm. But, the unseen realm or the spiritual realm is more real. What happens in the unseen spiritual realm, affects and manifests in this seen realm. That is the truth.

So, what happened when they ate of the forbidden fruit is that all of a sudden, sin separated them. But, you cannot kill a spirit, because the Spirit of God births spirits. "He is the Father of all spirits," *scripture* says. You cannot just kill a spirit. So, what is death to something that is a spirit. What is death? To us, it is being completely separated from God in blackness or darkness. There is the death of the soul. Because, when the Spirit of God sparks that life in the spirit in someone, it creates something. It manifests something that is the soul. But, then there is that part of the flesh, the spirit of a man that says, "This is what I want to do." After we have been saved, we call it the "old man." That part of you also "wants to be satisfied." I have a say, because what God had originally intended was that they would *have* the Spirit of God and the spirit of man, and they would be One. How do I know this?

Ephesians chapter five says that a husband and a wife is the representation of the mystery of God and the Church. They are supposed to be one. There was always supposed to be the spirit of man and the Spirit of God, as One. The soul in between was so unified, they would talk the same way, think the same way, and have that same emotion. That when He is grieving, I am grieving. When He is excited, I am excited. Just as a husband and wife know what they think and what they feel about certain things. How they are excited about certain times of the day, month, and year. Those things become one. It is a representation of what should have happened.

You have the spirit of man, that ate the fruit of the tree. Then separation happened, which is death to the spirit. If you have separated your spirit from God, eventually it is going to manifest in the flesh. That is a slow process, because the breath of God is so immortal. It takes years for your flesh to finally perish. Do you understand? It is the corruption of sin that wears down the body till it finally perishes. That is what is going on. That is what happened.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

When we are born again, what happens? God brings life back to the spirit of that man. "I am born again." That spirit is now connected. That is life. The separation is no longer, boom, I am born again. Now, I do not have my own identity. Now I have been birthed by the Spirit of God. As His own, now you do not have any control over your own. You are now bought at a price. The Spirit of God has birthed you, and now you are of the Spirit of God. Yes, that is what is happening. You have the DNA or the Body of Christ being sanctified in you. It is the opposite of the bondage of corruption making your flesh perish. The Spirit of God is now bringing your flesh back to eternal life. The glorifying, sanctifying work of Jesus. This is what the Bible is talking about. That is the thread of understanding death and life in the Bible. It is the spiritual, unseen realm. Amen. This is glorious.

Then there is something supernatural that happens. God says, "I am going to create your soul and your flesh to start thinking like I am thinking, feeling like I am feeling, and start being One with me. There is another way we can do this. I want to live in you. I am making a body, not just so you have a glorified body. I am making a body that is going to be a temple for the Holy Spirit." Many Christians go through their life being born again, and being made into the image and likeness of God. But they never get that indwelling, because the devil stops them short, saying "You do not want the baptism of Holy Spirit, that is too scary. That makes you something else, that makes you out of your mind." I have been told that.

What would the devil be seeing? He would be seeing a walking, breathing temple of God. *The devil* has no access to any of the courts of heaven. He has no access to the Holy of Holies, or to the most holy place. God is saying, "No, I do not want you to just be a living, breathing, awesome One with me, child of God. I want you to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit." How do we know this? At the end of the book of John, Jesus is raised and He enters into the room in His glorified body. He goes to each one of His disciples, and He breathes on them, saying "Your sins are forgiven. Peace." He says this.

That is not the baptism of Holy Spirit, because the Baptism of the Holy Spirit happens where Jesus is not in the room. Why did He say, "I give you the Holy Spirit, with Himself in the room? So they could be, boom, born again. Now, they have that sanctifying work in process. Seven weeks later, from the death *and resurrection* of Jesus, He says, "This is what I have been doing this whole time, I made a way so I can dwell with you. That the word, "Emmanuel," will be complete." God with us, Emmanuel. "His name will be Jesus, and He will save His people from their sins, but He will also be, Emmanuel, God with us. You have to have both encounters and both revelations. He is the Savior of the world that takes away my sin. I am born again, and I have a seal of the Holy Spirit, that makes me into His likeness eventually. He is faithful to complete it. But, He wanted more.

He said there is a better covenant. That just fulfills the Old Testament. There is a New Testament, a better covenant. One that says Holy Spirit will be in you forever, as if you are the temple of the living God. When somebody comes near you, they can encounter the Presence. You are now a priest that is in charge of the holy place. You are now a priest that is in charge of the Most Holy Place, and a Kingdom of Priests unto our God. That is in Revelation.

What does this have to do with Second Timothy, chapter three? If you are having a "form of godliness, but denying its power," it is just religion. Religion is those things which keep us from showing the glory of God in us. This is the paradox. We have a very wise elder in our House, who once told us, "Do not fear the paradox." There are a lot of paradoxes in what we call Christianity. Do not fear the paradox. I am the temple of the living God, yet I boasted yesterday. I am the temple of the living God, and I am raising children in the house of the Lord, but they have been disobedient to me today. The paradox of that is we are in that transition period of our life on the Earth and our days are numbered. As we sang today of that, "drop in the bucket

Sunday, February 11, 2024

or as grass withers," as it says in Isaiah. That transition period between the glorification and getting there. "God, you are going to perfect what is in your hands," but it is a slow perfection sometimes. We can help the process by going through the Cross.

#### Luke 9:23-24

"Don't fear the paradox." That helps the process by going through the cross. When we hear this, what does it actually mean, "to take up a cross?" How do we see this in the spiritual realm? If it is not the physical, what is this? Do you understand? If it was not the actual apple in the garden that killed the spiritual man? What is this? How do you take up your cross and follow Jesus? We say it all the time. He says it three times in every gospel but John. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let Him deny Himself, and take up His cross daily, and follow Me. For everyone who desires to save his life will lose it. Whoever loses his life, for my sake, he will save it."

#### John 12:23-24

Jesus talks about this. Farmers understand that things have to die in order for things to multiply. It is even that way with livestock. You can feed multiple people with one cow. You can feed multiple people with one pig.

There is this concept that both the body and the spirit give nourishment to the soul. If your flesh or your old man is giving nourishment to your soul, it will lead to death. But, if the Spirit of God is giving nourishment to your soul, it will lead to life. There is this concept that in the body in this transition period, that I put into the grave through baptism, that if I let it speak and give nourishment or satisfaction to my soul, my mind, my will, my emotions, and how I feel, and if I let the flesh give me satisfaction, it is eventually going to lead to death, where I put the old man.

If I let the Spirit of God give nourishment to my soul, my mind, my will, and my emotions, it will satisfy my soul in God. My delight is found in you God. You are my rock. I will taste and see that the Lord is good. There is Honey in the Rock. There is a satisfaction of the soul. You are the lover of my soul. You are the anchor of my soul. It is the language of the Bible. It will lead to life and life abundant. This is that state that we are in. The sanctifying work of God. He allows us to wrestle. He allows us to see the vomit, that we go back to, until we see that it is vomit. He knows what it is. He can tell you all day long, "Don't do that." But, then it is just religion to you.

When you actually see it for what it is, you say, "What was I doing?" There is the deliverance. Because, then when you see it for what it is, and you say, "Oh God, what have I been doing?" He says, "I forgive you." Then there is a turning away from it. That is the sanctifying work, "He who calls you is faithful, and He will surely do it." Yes, this is that work, but how can we do that process? You have to go to where He is.

#### John 12:26

Put your mental highlighter there in verse 26. We are building here. Remember that "where I am, there my servant will be also." The flesh gets in our way. The flesh is "our own way," as we say. The Spirit of God is the way to eternal life.

#### Hebrews 13:11

We are talking about the Old Testament where you would bring a sacrifice. I said it in prayer that God would take our offerings of our sacrifice of praise, as it says in Psalms. It costs me something to praise you. It costs me something that I didn't go and sell the cow. I gave it to God. I didn't make a profit on it, but I gave it to the Lord. I gave it to the priest as an offering. It costs me. It costs me my time. It costs me my heart. It costs me the affections of my heart, to give to God. It costs me the kneeling of my heart. It costs me the adoration of my affection

Sunday, February 11, 2024

towards you today. The offerings of our praise. In the Old Testament, they would show the physical as a representation of what was happening in the spirit. Hopefully, that their hearts would not be far from God. But, the priests would take those bodies of *animals* whose blood was brought into the sanctuary by the high priest. After they took the blood and what they needed, they would take the bodies outside of the temple area, outside of the tabernacle area, and outside of the camp during the time they were walking around in the wilderness. We know that God did that for health reasons, but also as a prophetic act to what was going to happen to His son. He would take them away from the holy and they would go all the way outside of the camp and burn them out there.

#### Hebrews 13:12

Okay, we just read that, "Where I am, there My servants will be also." He said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me." Go where Jesus is, outside the camp. Where is He? He is on a cross. That is what happened here. He left, and He went outside of Jerusalem, outside the camp, outside the city, to Golgotha, the place of the skull, and was on a cross. He says, "Where I am, my servants will be with Me also." In Hebrews it says, "Let us therefore go forth towards Him." How do you go towards towards Him? "Take up your cross and follow Him." That is the mindset and that is the image. How do I do that? "Bearing His reproach."

There is something in the Bible called, the "sufferings of Christ." That is what we are getting into, the "sufferings of Christ." How do you help the process? You go through the "sufferings of Christ." You choose to let the reproaches of Christ break you. There is no other way to play. You let the reproaches of God break your soul and break you. It helps the process of the flesh truly dying. The Spirit of God is really making you live. If you think about it this way. When you were baptized, you saw your grave. You saw the place where Jesus went down. Now, for the rest of your life, you are trying to put your members to death in it.

That is what it says in Colossians. "Therefore, put to death, the members of your body." You have seen your grave. You have a stake in the grave of Jesus. Now, I am going to put to death the rest of my life, the members of my body that keep me from the everlasting life, that I have inside of me. It is like you are taking it off, and putting it where it belongs. Isn't that interesting? It is a different way to see it. You intend to take up your cross and go with the reproaches of Christ.

#### Hebrews 13:13-16

Here are two ways that we can go through the cross. Did you see it? Truly worshiping and not just lip service. Truly being broken before God. Truly knowing what it means to take the blood and take the body. Truly knowing what it means to gather together and give Him our praise as if it is a sacrifice that actually breaks your soul. When you say it is not about me right now, but it is about you, God. "I do not know if I am going to get anything to go home with. I do not know if I am going to be refreshed. I do not know if I am going to be rejuvenated whenever this preacher stops preaching. But, it is not about me. I know it is about you. It is a sacrifice to praise you. But, it is not, because I do not want to. I want to go through this. I want to go through this."

What else? That you would do what is right and to give and share. For with such sacrifices, God is well pleased. Right? The Bible says it this way. "If you love only those who love you, what does it cost?" "If you only give to those who you know will give back to you, what did it cost you?" That is the sacrifice that we are talking about. If you do what is easy for you to do, how much have you actually gained? If you only invite those over to your house who you know you will enjoy? They say the same things you do, and won't say anything bad about the Cowboys. How much of a cost have you actually paid? Cubs fans, it doesn't matter, they all say the same. They all say something bad.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

We have to make light of it, because it is a heavy subject. But, that is the cost. It is that uncomfortable feeling of I do not know what to say to this person. I am going to try to love them and get to know them like Jesus would know them. That is a sacrifice, well pleasing to God that breaks your soul. It breaks you, because it is not about you. It is all of a sudden about them. It helps that process of being more Christlike by the Spirit of God. Are you with me? The sufferings of Christ are that we would take up our cross and go where He is, outside the camp. You are taking on the suffering of God through Christ Jesus.

#### Romans 8:5-9

That is what we were talking about. You see, there is the paradox. Say it with me, "Don't fear the paradox."

#### Romans 8:10-12

I wish He would have said, "today," because so often as Christians, we say, "When I get it in the second coming." You put that there. "He will give life to my mortal body." You say, "In the second coming when I am raised to life." What if that meant, today? It does mean "today." That is what we are doing. That is what this life is about. It says that, "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life today to your mortal body, through His Spirit who dwells in you." You see, the present tense changes everything.

#### Romans 8:13-19

This is the message all in one, right? What are the sufferings? What do they look like? Because oftentimes, we say, "Oh, man, I am suffering. I am going through suffering right now. "These sufferings, at this present time, are not worthy to be compared with the glory of God." But, I am here to tell you that unless those sufferings are the sufferings of Christ, they are in vain. We can go through really hard times and not know Christ in them. They will be for naught.

These have to be the sufferings of God, the reproaches of Christ, as we read in Hebrews, to allow that sanctifying work to actually take place in your soul. How do I know this? These must be the sufferings of Christ, or you are suffering for naught, because *you must* do everything for the glory of God. "In all that you do, do for the glory of God." Yes, "Not for me, Lord, but for you."

#### I Peter 4:12-14

The "fiery trial" is the sufferings we are talking about **if** you are reproached for the name of Christ.

#### I Peter 4:15-16

These are really serious, and then "as a busybody." You hear it? "Let none of you suffer as a murderer, as a thief, as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other people's matters."

#### I Peter 4:17

Wait a minute. He is talking about us. Why is this important? It is important because remember how we started, "beware because in the end times you will be lovers of money, boastful, haughty, disobedient to parents." They could have added all of these here. So, what is the warning? The warning is if you are suffering, make sure that it is not because you are gossiping, prideful, haughty, or boasting in yourself. Because, if that is what you are walking in, and you have a "form of godliness, but denying its power," then you are just reaping what you sow. You are saying that your sufferings at your workplace are just the trial of the devil or man, and you are just getting beat up by Satan right now. But, it is actually because you have not humbled yourself before God and asked Him, "Why is this happening? Is this for you, God, because, I am a Christian for your glory, and it is for my gain?"

Sunday, February 11, 2024

If it is because of me and myself, then it is coming back upon me. Do you see that? That is what He says. Verse 14, "If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you." In verse 15, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters." That is the separating of the spirit and the soul. Is this fiery trial that I am in and this really hard time where I feel so weary, because I know that I have seen and been with God, and I am going with Him outside the camp? Is it because I have taken up a cross and everyone in my workplace sees it?

Or, is it because I care about me, and I am a lover of this world and a lover of pleasure? Am I a gossip that will bring the suffering upon me as well, but it will not lead me to the spirit of life? Will this lead me to strife and eventually the death of my soul? Are you hearing this? This is where the "judgment is in the house of God." That is what it says. If this is what God is putting between us, it must matter to Him. I must matter to Him.

### Colossians 3:5

### Hebrews 12:1-2

There is the difference. Are you going through the suffering for you? "God, get me through this so that I can get to that point, or God get me through this so that I can have this peace." Or, are you going through it for the glory of the Lord. As we sang today, "Heart of my own heart, whatever will be, High King of Heaven, my vision thou art." The vision that I have is, "No matter what happens to me, it is not about me." That is the suffering of Christ, where He, "For the joy set before Him, that the glory of God might be manifested, goes through the shame."

As a Christian, that is what it is about. You are going through the sufferings, you are going through the reproaches, and you are going through the persecutions, not for your glory, not for your sake, not for you to experience something, but the heart of it is for God to be glorified. That is all that matters. Then it will produce fruit in you.

Interesting that we say all the time, "Abide in me and I and you, and you will bear much fruit." But, then we just read that the only way "to bear a multiplication of fruit, is to die." Abide in me and I and you and you will bear much fruit." And, "The only way to bear much fruit is for you to die." So, if you are going to abide with Jesus, you are going to die. If that is what it looks like to stay with Jesus, to stay with Him. Then, It looks like a lot of little deaths. A lot, that is what it takes. He says, "Those who follow me, take up your cross." It is a lot of little deaths that are putting those members to death. I hope your understanding is increasing.

In the book of James, it says that "faith is seen by your works." The faith that you have that what God is doing in me is greater, is seen by how we are working. That we have a form of godliness with power." Not just a form of godliness.

### Matthew 5:14-15

I think it is interesting because this was before electricity. Now, if Jesus were to see our houses, the lights are often covered up with baskets, because of how bright an electric light bulb is. We have to diffuse it with lamp shades. We do not have just light bulbs. You cannot look at just a light bulb, you have to diffuse it or "put a basket" or a shade over it, to diffuse how bright it is. If you put a basket over a lamp, and you turned out all the lights, you could still see light through that basket. Light is still punching through the "flesh," because the basket is the old man. You are keeping it over the glory of God that dwells in you.

What He is wanting you to do, is start cutting off the basket and putting it to death. As the members of your bodies throw off the things that so easily ensnare and entangle you, and run that race. That is the work of sanctification of this life, that basket would start coming off.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

That is what it is. Right? He is saying to start cutting the lampshade, and see how bright the room gets. That type of imagery is what it looks like to go through the sufferings of Christ in being baptized. I know of people that will baptize themselves even after they have been publicly baptized. So, they “give it all away again. “God, I am dying again, as a spiritual act.” They have the public baptism, but then in their own private bathroom, they fill up the tub and they dunk themselves. Is that Biblical? Probably not. But, it is the walk of faith.

When you abide with God and you abide in Christ, where is He at? He is outside the camp. How do I get there? I have to take up my own cross, and I have to walk with Him. If I abide in Him, I am going to bear much fruit, but the only way to get fruit is to die. That is what it looks like to go through the sufferings and the reproaches of Christ, for His glory alone. That is what He is calling us to do. He asks us to “rise to the occasion.” It is very interesting, because He did rise, but, how did He get to that?

Let's stand and pray. If you have a need of anything, we will pray for you. If you want to know the Lord in this way, then come and receive Him as your Savior. We will be here.

“Holy Spirit, this is a deep saying, but we can know it. You are not one who hides things so that they are not found. You hide them, so that we can find them. I thank you, Father for this process of sanctification. The work of making us like Jesus. That is what it is about. That we would be like your Son. I thank you that we have this hope. He walked just like me, so that He could show me I can do it. I can do it just like He did it. But, it takes a reliance upon your Holy Spirit. It takes a reliance upon the cross, and carrying it myself, for your glory. Only your glory, and yours alone. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.”