

## AFFLICTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The afflictions stated in the following verses can include trials, hardships, persecutions, anguish, burdens, trouble, tribulation and temptations.

Affliction cannot be interpreted as personal sufferings before we found Christ as Saviour.

Many today testify of mental and physical hardships encountered in dysfunctional families with members bound with addictions such as alcohol, drugs and so on. Many people caught in such bondages although difficult to overcome by natural cures can be set free totally in Christ. Once a decision for Christ is made such bondages of a personal nature can be laid down with the help of senior ministers who may recommend periods of fasting. (Isa 58:5-11) The believer must allow the life and light of Christ to overcome the pain of the past. The appropriation of His life allows believers to experience what is meant by “taking up His cross to follow Him”. The heaviness of any burden past and present is purposely laid down. Only then do we truly understand the meaning of “my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light”. (Mat 11:28-30)

**Isa 53:5** But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:** the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed.**

We notice that all manner of sicknesses with associated burdens were dealt with at Calvary’s cross.

**Mat 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

**29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** 30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

**PSA 34:19** Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the **LORD delivereth him out of them all.** 20He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

**JAS 5:13** Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 14Is any sick among you? **let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:**

James says that the answer for afflictions was prayer. (Jas 5:13)  
Paul’s counsel to Timothy was simply this, “endure afflictions”.

**2 TIM 4:5** But watch thou in all things, **endure afflictions,** do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.** 6For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand

Afflictions should not be interpreted as sicknesses, as we should not humbly submit to sicknesses. God's chastisement is a different matter. Submit!

**HEB 12:6** For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and **scourgeth every son whom he receiveth**. <sup>7</sup>If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? <sup>8</sup>But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, **then are ye bastards**, and not sons.

As Chastened: The following verses are not God's chastenings. However the word does appear at the end of the verse.

Paul says: "approving ourselves as ministers". It is a choice; it's also God's challenge!

**2 COR 6:4** But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, <sup>5</sup>In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; <sup>6</sup>By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, <sup>8</sup>By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; <sup>9</sup>As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; <sup>10</sup>As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Paul walked in suffering; it became part of his walk with God.

(Act 9:16) "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake".

Read Isa 53:4 Christ was smitten of God and afflicted on our behalf.

**Isa 53:4** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God, and afflicted**.

**2 COR 11:23** Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. <sup>24</sup>Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. <sup>25</sup>Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

**1 PET 5:10** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

**ACT 5:41** And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

**1 PET 1:6** Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **7That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire,** might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**1 PET 3:13** And who *is* he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? **14But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*:** and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

**1 PET 4:1** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:** for **he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;**

Fiery trials: (1 Pet 4:12)

**1 PET 4:12** Beloved, **think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:** **13But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;** that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. **14If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*;** for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. **15But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. **16Yet if *any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed;*** but let him glorify God on this behalf. ....  
**19Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God** commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.**

The sufferings of Christ:

**MAT 8:17** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses.

**ISA 53:2** For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. **3He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:** and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:** yet **we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.** **5But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:** the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. **6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. **7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth:**** he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. **8He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall**

declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

**1 PET 2:24** Who **his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree**, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Christ was never sick and yet He was exposed to our sicknesses and infirmities. (Isa 53: 3-5)

The Word of God helps all believers to endure: We must have faith in His word.

ISA 12:25 For I *am* the LORD: I will speak, and **the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days**, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.

28 Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done**, saith the Lord GOD.

The hymn writer wrote “Stand on the promises”.

**2 COR 1:20** For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

**1 KIN 8:56** Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: **there hath not failed one word of all his good promise**, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

Paul an Apostle makes it clear that as a leader he could not dominate the life of a believer. He was a helper only. Standing by faith in Christ is ultimately a personal choice. (2Cor 1:24)

**2 COR 1:24** Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: **for by faith ye stand.**