

Barrier of Suffering

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I. Introduction.

- A. God has much more for us in our Christian experience, but we get stuck because of barriers.
- B. Text: Psalm 77.
- C. *Selah* refers to a pause to think calmly about something.
- D. The answer to suffering is found in...

II. Seeking.

III. Asking.

- A. Sometimes in our suffering we ask questions at God instead of asking questions of God—we scream at him.
- B. The beauty of the psalm is that the psalmist finds the answer.

IV. Finding.

- A. The psalmist finds the answer through remembering. (2 Peter 1 and 1 Peter)
 - 1. We need to prepare for suffering.
 - 2. We must not be afraid of the terror that is coming but be prepared to give an answer.
 - 3. It is better to suffer for good and good to suffer as a Christian for God's glory. God cares about us.
 - 4. Persecution was expected.
 - 5. If we run away from suffering, we run away from having our character molded.
- B. The more one knows about Jesus, the more grace and peace one will have.
 - 1. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.
 - 2. Many cannot handle pressures because they have not gone on to know more about Jesus.
 - 3. Jesus is living in us giving us power to endure suffering.
- C. Our suffering should not be a barrier but an impetus to be a blessing to others.

Application questions:

1. How can suffering be a doorway to blessing?

2. What does the Bible teach us about responding to suffering?

3. How have you grown in suffering? What are some of the ways you can respond to growth in suffering?
