

# Lessons of Grace Learned in the School of Affliction

*Romans 8:8-18*



**Forrest McPhail has shared the following excellent points regarding suffering:**

- **1.** God's will is more important than my desires. My will must align with His perfect will. I must be able to pray "Thy will be done" with sincere faith (*Matt. 6:10*).
- **2.** The Lord uses such trials to make me a more effective servant by testing my faith, helping me maintain humility, and causing me to experience His enabling grace more deeply (*2 Cor. 12:1-10*).
- **3.** My pain and limitations allow me to identify with others who suffer and to be able to comfort them as I have been comforted (*2 Cor. 1:3-7*).
- **4.** Emotional and mental struggles are a normal response to ongoing suffering. These struggles are not sin in themselves, but my response to them may well be.
- **5.** My suffering is an opportunity for God's grace to be seen through me, not an excuse for sin or despair (*2 Cor. 4:7-9*).
- **6.** God is using my suffering to teach me death to self so that my testimony and ministry might be more useful in manifesting Christ's life to others (*2 Cor. 4:10-12*).
- **7.** I am not accountable to God for what He has hindered me from doing in His wise Providence. I am responsible for what I can do, not for what I cannot (*Lk. 19:11-27*).
- **8.** I am called by Christ unto the fellowship of His Son (*1 Cor. 1:9*). Where He leads me, I will follow.
- **9.** No matter what my circumstances, God will always provide opportunities to share Christ and point to Him by life and lip (*Phil. 1:12-18*).
- **10.** When suffering intensifies, I must maintain vigilance against the temptation to turn to sin or unhealthy entertainment in order to cope. Keeping my heart right and pure is always more important than my physical comfort (*Lk. 4:1-13*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)

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