

# Understanding and Responding to Suffering

Introduction: Are you going through a trial of suffering right now in your life? Does anyone know that you are suffering? How are you coping with the trial of suffering?

## Understanding Suffering

1. The Presence of Suffering- *Suffering is inevitable*
  - Every Christian is called to suffer
  - There is common suffering among Christians throughout the world
  - A willingness to suffer is vital in fulfilling God-given relationships
  - Suffering is a necessary part of God's ultimate goal for every Christian
  
2. The Purpose of Suffering- *Suffering is beneficial*
  - Builds the character of Christ in us
  - Equips us for ministry to others
  - Allows us to learn obedience
  - Humbles us and brings more grace
  - Bring us to the end of ourselves
  - Brings people closer together
  - Qualifies us for future rewards
  
3. The Provision for Suffering- *Suffering is possible*
  - The Comfort of God
  - The Power of God
  - The Confidence of God
  - The High Priest of God

## Responding to Suffering- *How to respond to suffering*

4. The Pattern for Suffering
  - Pray
  - Read the Word of God
  - Learn from others who have suffered
  - View suffering through God's eternal purposes through Christ
  - Purpose to abide under what God has designed for your life
  - Praise God
  - Be prepared for the devil's roar

Conclusion: